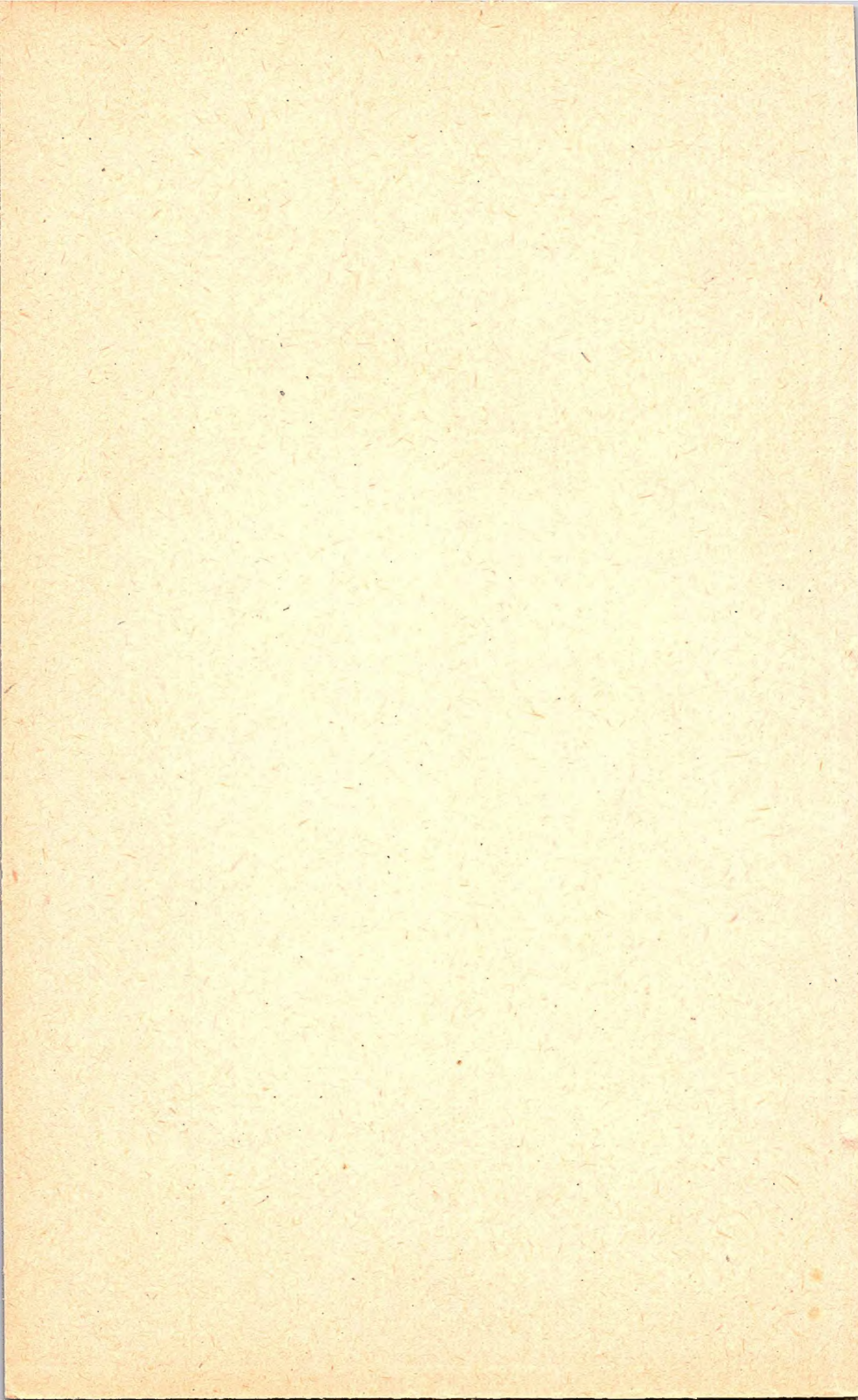




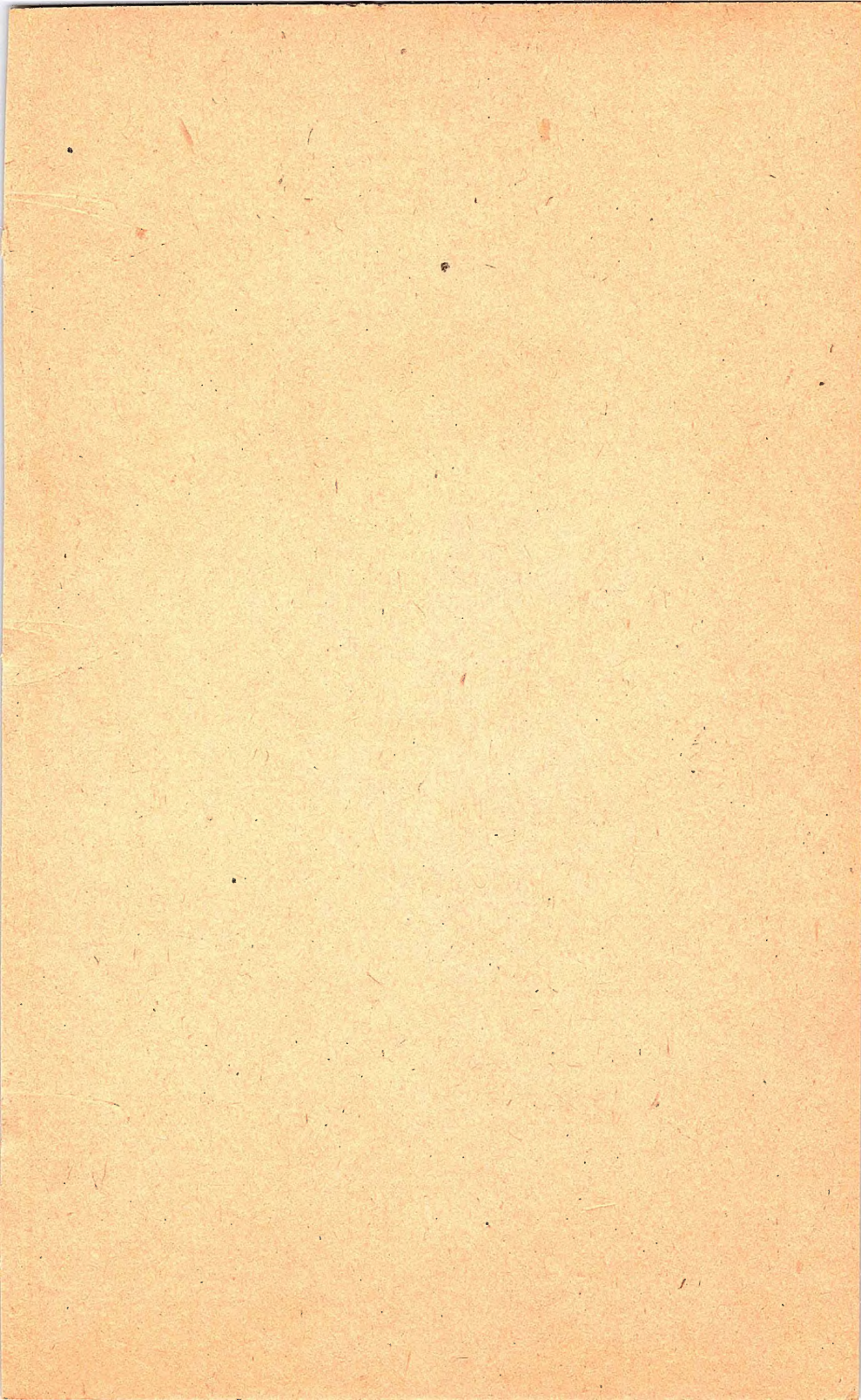
South Canterbury  
Provincial Executive

1932 — 1957









# South Canterbury Provincial Executive 1932 – 1957



## The Women's Creed

*Keep us, O God, from pettiness ; let us be large in thought, in word,  
and deed.*

*Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.*

*May we put away pretence and meet each other face to face without  
self-pity and without prejudice.*

*May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.*

*Let us take time for all things ; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.*

*Teach us to put into action our better impulses ; straightforward  
and unafraid.*

*Grant that we may realise it is the little things that create differences ;  
that in the big things of life we are one.*

*And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart  
common to us all, and O Lord God, let us not forget  
to be kind.*

*Printed by*

HERALD PRINTING WORKS  
TIMARU



# Thoughts of a W. D. F. F. Member

I will take up this book and read,  
And herein I will find food for thought,  
And good reason for gratitude

To our Founders :—

Theirs were the trials,  
To meet and surmount,  
Theirs was the future,  
For which to account.

Ours are the pleasures,  
Derived from their pains,  
Theirs the achievements,  
Which result in our gains.

Ours is the harvest,  
To use as we can,  
Ours is the future,  
To cherish and plan.

S. R. MACKLE — Clandeboyne

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**MRS. B. E. EVANS M.B.E.**

Past Dominion Vice-President;  
Fourteen years, Dominion Advisory Board; Six years, Provincial President



# Foreword

IN LOOKING BACK over the twenty-five years of the South Canterbury Executive we should be proud of the work which has been accomplished.

As your President for the period between the Twenty-first and Twenty-fifth Jubilees, I would like to add my congratulations to all those members who have worked so hard and given such wonderful service over the last twenty-five years. Immediately after the Silver Jubilee takes place, the six most southern branches are leaving the South Canterbury Executive and will form the Waimate Executive.

We are fortunate in having Mrs. P. R. Talbot, a foundation member of the W.D., still an active member of our Executive.

Realising the responsibility and power we possess, we can face the future with faith and let us use the foundations so firmly laid as stepping stones for the future.

DENDERAH ELWORTHY



# Tribute

WE WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY of offering congratulations to the South Canterbury W.D.F.F. on attaining their twenty-fifth birthday.

The success which has followed the efforts of its members in all spheres of service to the community, and especially for countrywomen, must be of extreme gratification to the foundation members, some of whom are still actively engaged in its work. That there is something of value in everything, even in adversity itself, is to be noted, as this organisation was formed at a particularly difficult time in the history of the province. There must be countless numbers who have been grateful for the help and encouragement they received when it was most needed.

On behalf of Federated Farmers, we thank the Executive and members of the Women's Division in South Canterbury for the assistance they have given us on numerous occasions and extend our very best wishes for continued success, even overshadowing, if that is possible, the work carried out during these first twenty-five years.

A. C. BEGG, Provincial President  
D. R. ROWE, Provincial Secretary

# How We Began

By a Foundation Member, *Mrs. P. R. Talbot, Claremont*

THIRTY-TWO YEARS AGO, I was one of the fortunate wives who accompanied their husbands to the opening of the Farmers' Union conference in Wellington. Mr. McAlpine, at that time an organiser of the Farmers' Union, was also at the Conference. The idea came to him that if he could arrange a meeting of these few women, some plan could be thought out to help the women and children in the back blocks of both islands. He had seen women and children in remote areas working under great difficulties and the education of the children was a problem.

Consequently a short meeting of these sixteen farmers' wives was held in a room of the Farmers' Institute building followed next day by a tea-party at Kirkcaldies arranged by Mr. McAlpine. It was noticeable that a posy of violets was placed beside each plate. At this meeting it was decided to form branches of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union with Mrs. Polson as president. Each member present was asked to take the message back to the district where she lived.

Unfortunately I was unable to arouse much interest in South Canterbury just then and as far as organising was concerned, I found transport impossible. Then too, I was a busy farmer's wife with a young family which needed me at home. It has always been my regret that I was unable to attend the first conferences. A few years later, when Mrs. B. E. Evans was Provincial President and Organiser, I accompanied her to many of those meetings when new branches were formed. As both her husband and mine gave their utmost support and a great deal of their time to our work we were a very happy foursome on many occasions. I would like to say here that Mr. Talbot was a Life Member of the Farmers' Union and so, when I was honoured with Dominion Life-membership of the Women's Division it was a proud day for us both.

It seems remarkable that the organisation which was first thought of in July, 1925, should now be one of such tremendous proportions. I would like to thank sincerely all organisers, secretaries, treasurers and all members for their work and interest at all times.

The W.D.F.F. as it is now called, means a great deal to me and has been a help and comfort at all times. Within it lasting

friendships are made and I feel confident that my own family will always support both the Women's Division of Federated Farmers and Federated Farmers.

'I pass this way but once, therefore any good that I can do, let me not defer or neglect it, but let me do it now, for I will not pass this way again.'

I asked the Keeper of the Gates,  
An aged man and wise,  
How judge you the worth of a human life?  
Deeply he searched my eyes.  
It matters not what he believes,  
What he may think or know ;  
A dream may be tomorrow's truth,  
Only the years will show.  
But as a man does, so will he be,  
His worth is measured in integrity.



# South Canterbury Provincial Executive

## FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE

ARISING OUT OF A NOTICE of motion given at the quarterly Friendly Conference held in the Cafe Carlton on September 16, 1932, Mrs. B. E. Evans moved, Mrs. M. Burdon seconded, that an executive of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union be set up in South Canterbury.— Carried.

*President:* Mrs. B. E. Evans — proposed by Mrs. Burdon, seconded by Mrs. Ley; carried.

*Vice-Presidents:* Mrs. M. Burdon — proposed by Mrs. Salmond, seconded by Mrs. Hart; carried. Mrs. W. Buchan — proposed by Mrs. Meyer, seconded by Mrs. Hayhurst; carried.

*Secretary:* Mrs. D. Crosbie — proposed by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Oliver; carried.

## Provincial Presidents

MRS. B. E. EVANS — 1932-38, 1942-44

THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT that in addition to the officers appointed, the Executive would consist of Branch Presidents and two additional delegates to be nominated by the branch and the names forwarded to the secretary before the next meeting. It was decided that the Executive should meet on the third Friday of every second month in the Board room of the C.F.C.A. at 1.30 p.m.

Members expressed pleasure that the Dominion Executive meeting would be held in Timaru in January, 1933. An entertainment committee was set up. It was decided to appoint a special committee of one delegate from each branch to confer with the Farmers' Union. Regarding the visiting delegates, Mrs. Burdon offered to hold a Garden Party at her home at Woodbury.

At this meeting, Miss McDonald (Fairlie Branch) asked the Executive to consider the advisability of appointing a sewing woman

as this had been a complete success in Otago and Southland. The secretary was asked to make enquiries regarding conditions of employment.

It was moved by Mrs. Evans and seconded by Mrs. Dixon that this Executive regretted the Government's action in raising the age of admission to Primary schools and joined with the Educational Institute and others in requesting that the Act be repealed and a return made to the former age of admission, namely five years.

A letter was received from the manager of the Timaru Branch of the Otago Farmers' Union Mutual Fire Insurance Association offering the services of Miss V. Kingston as secretary and treasurer at the salary of £10 per annum. The advantages of this were three-fold — the use of telephone, an experienced stenographer and close co-operation with the Farmers' Union. The offer was accepted.

In her report of May, 1934, Miss Kingston stated that the work of the Housekeeping Auxiliary was becoming more widely known and many appreciative letters received. Forty-eight engagements had been fulfilled. The W.D. had three permanent housekeepers, one casual and one probationer. Also a competent dressmaker had been appointed.

Mrs. Wordsworth (Geraldine Branch) was appointed delegate to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at their request, and it was decided to make an annual donation to this society. Our negotiations with the R.S.A. resulted in the acceptance of Rex Bennett, of Lyalldale, to the Farmers' Training School known as Flock House.

After discussion, in 1935, it was moved by Mrs. Evans and seconded by Mrs. Buchan, that an Interprovincial Conference amongst Canterbury branches would be most beneficial to our work and it was suggested that the first meeting be held in Ashburton in the following March. The honour of conducting this meeting was bestowed on Mrs. Evans. North Otago Executive was also included.

In 1935, six prizes amounting to 30s. were offered to children in a competition to collect white butterflies which had then become a garden menace. Prizes were also given to those members who recruited most new comers to the W.D. This year also saw the first Country Girls' Educational Week which was very well attended and greatly enjoyed.

The Health Camp held at Geraldine was generously supported by residents as were those that followed in other districts; branches donating produce and clothing. One year Temuka made forty pairs of pyjamas.

At this time the Southburn Branch won the prize of £1 1s. for the best attendance with an average of 21.9 members.

In June, 1936, Mrs. C. K. Wilson, Dominion President and a former resident of South Canterbury, visited several branches, recalling places described in her books 'My First Eighty Years' and 'Moonshine.'

Mrs. Evans approached the Minister of Education in an endeavour to obtain transport for those children remote from secondary schools and Universities and satisfactory arrangements were made in some localities.

On a happy tour of Otago, in 1938, members were moved to provide an outfit of clothing for a needy child, thus carrying out their aim - Service.

#### Branches Formed by Mrs. B. E. Evans

WAIMATE, Hook, Otaio, Fairlie, Albury, Cannington, Maungati, Southburn, Pleasant Point, Kingsdown, Clandeboye, Kakahu, Hazelburn, Levels (with Mrs. O'Neill), Lyalldale (with Mrs. Holmes), Skipton, Ma Waro.

#### Extract from the *Timaru Herald*

COUNTRYWOMEN THROUGHOUT SOUTH CANTERBURY and the Dominion will be the first to congratulate Mrs. Janet Evans on her award of the M.B.E. Her interest in the work of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers has never flagged since she became the first secretary and treasurer when a branch was formed in Timaru in 1929. She has held various offices in the movement and was largely responsible for the founding of seventeen new branches. Mrs. Evans was also thought most highly of nationally in the Women's Division and for fourteen years was a member of the Dominion Council. For many years Chairwoman of the Te Kiteroa Rest Home Committee, Mrs. Evans was also a delegate to the National Council of Women. Mrs. Evans is a pioneer in a countrywomen's organisation which has done much to brighten the lives of thousands of women throughout New Zealand. The award is not only recognition of that fine work but could well be taken as a compliment to the worth of the organisation she has so ably served.

#### MRS. W. BUCHAN - 1938-1942

MRS. W. BUCHAN was the second Provincial President appointed in South Canterbury following Mrs. B. E. Evans on June 17, 1938. For Mrs. Buchan, who had been a public schoolteacher over many years, it was not at all difficult to be chairman of a Provincial Executive meeting of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union.



Like nearly all women who have taken office and devoted a great deal of time to the work of an organisation, Mrs. Buchan had the whole-hearted support of her husband. He was one of that loyal band of husbands who sought to encourage this new society which was part of the Farmers' Union.

As well as admiring Mrs. Buchan for the splendid way she conducted meetings and carried out the duties of Provincial President, we would like to pay a tribute to her for her gentle, approachable manner and for her ability to win the affection of all members of the Executive.

#### MRS. G. A. DAVEY — 1944-1948

THE CLOSING YEARS OF THE WAR — that is how I remember my term as Provincial President of South Canterbury; it was a time of tense anxiety for all and of dire foreboding for those who had loved ones on the battle fronts. And in a lesser way it was a time of shortages and rationing, borne cheerfully because those on the home front felt that they must do their bit to help win the war.

Other than the actual war atmosphere, petrol rationing looms large in my memory. How quickly that ration disappeared no matter how carefully country-dwellers husbanded it! At that time, too, I was a member of the Advisory Board (now the Dominion Council) and how awkward it was for us South Islanders to attend meetings in Wellington when the Ferry ran only every second night.

But despite restrictions and shortages the Division held on its way. I was granted a special petrol licence to enable me to attend the first meetings of the Te Kiteroa committee at Waimate. How we planned to furnish and equip that new Rest Home on a minimum budget because Headquarters were at that time in rather low water financially; and how thrilled we all were, when at last the official opening took place in brilliant weather and in the presence of several hundred guests. Whatever may be the opinion as to the success of Te Kiteroa as a Division project, none can deny that it is a beautiful home in beautiful surroundings.

Reading over the minutes of the Executive meetings of those years one notices that a remit was brought forward repeatedly by the Albury Branch in connection with the cost of electricity to country dwellers in South Canterbury. The remit pressed for a flat rate for electricity for town and country. The years have gone by and still this question is the cause of much heartburning in our midst. This leads me to wonder afresh if the women of our organisation could not accomplish more if they pursued matters of this kind with more heart-felt zeal. Another subject which they might do well to study very carefully is that of Death Duties,

especially as they affect wives. We should remember that we have a great weight of voting power and use that power to its utmost in worthwhile projects.

The Division has done much in the past to brighten the lives of countrywomen by affording social contacts, help in the home, etc., but there is a big field for further effort. If we do not progress we stagnate and if we stagnate we die. Let us press forward to ever higher goals.

MARY M. DAVEY — Temuka

MRS. J. O'NEILL — 1948-1950

IN THE CARRYING OUT OF MY DUTIES as Provincial President, I would like to emphasise the pleasure I derived from meeting people in their own particular environment. I received no mass impression of groups of country women here and there, but individual portraits each revealing a characteristic personality remain in my memory and revive the spirit of many happy gatherings at which I was a willing guest. The warmth of my reception and the honour paid me as a representative of the W.D.F.F. have always impressed me as constituting a public recognition of the integrity and idealism of our movement and I am humbly proud to have been the recipient of this tribute.

Possessing so many facilities for gaining knowledge and skills, it behoves us as enlightened members of society to take an intelligent interest in women's activities and problems in our own land and beyond it and our affiliation with the Pan Pacific Association was a further step in this direction.

Our Rest Home work was increased by the purchase of 'Scotlands' in Auckland and a substantial donation from our members has contributed towards making it freehold. A successful innovation at Te Kiteroa was the holiday week for country girls for whom various entertainments and outings were planned.

There has been a shortage of housekeepers but I would like to thank Mrs. E. E. Harvey and Mrs. G. H. Patton for their generous hospitality to our housekeepers when in need of accommodation. Boys from St. Saviour's Orphanage have enjoyed farm holidays and gifts of foodstuffs and comforts distributed to homes for the aged.

We have enjoyed the visits of the Dominion President, Mrs. Haldane, and Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Coop and Mrs. McIntosh, and also heard the late Dame Hilda Ross, M.P., speak at Ashburton Interprovincial Conference.

The exchange of minutes of meetings with Federated Farmers has co-ordinated our interests more closely and Press reports of

Executive meetings and schools for officers tend to aid branches and maintain their interest.

We are all working along various channels in the public interest and personal satisfaction lies in the knowledge of having done one's best but I would like to thank all members and assure them that for me it has been a heart-warming experience that every appeal of mine received an abundant response.

The ideals and objectives of our movement are high and often difficult to accomplish but let us be of good heart remembering—  
'Not failure but low aim is crime.'

HONORA O'NEILL — Albury

#### MRS. J. HOLMES — 1950-1952

THE MAIN HISTORICAL EVENTS during this period were the Korean War and the death of our well-loved King George VI. In our own land, the waterfront strike and forty-hour week caused many difficulties vitally affecting the country.

From this time our bi-monthly Executive meetings were held in the Social Hall of the Department of Agriculture and as membership passed the 1000 mark, we qualified for an extra delegate to Conference. Five new branches were formed and country girls were organised under the leadership of Miss Madeline Ryan into The Younger Set which proved to be the forerunner of today's Country Girls' Clubs.

The business side of the Executive was stabilised by the opening of two current accounts at the Bank of New Zealand, one for General Accounts and the other for Housekeeping and all branch payments were made through the Provincial Secretary. In this position we were fortunate to have Mrs. C. F. Rose, whose accurate and thorough reports kept us informed of our financial position at all times. To assist the Housekeeper Service, the Executive sponsored a Dutch woman, Miss Anna Smit, who gave several years of greatly appreciated work in South Canterbury homes.

All members were delighted when Mesdames B. E. Evans and P. R. Talbot were honoured with Dominion Life Membership at this time for they have together laid the foundations of W.D.F.F. work in this province and inspired everyone with their sincere devotion to the ideal of our organisation—Service.

A notable event during this period was the acceptance of the Stratheona Girls' Training Hostel from the trustees of the Burnett Estate by the W.D.F.F. who undertook to conduct the work of training girls in Home Arts on the lines first envisaged by the late Mr. T. D. Burnett, M.P. Stratheona thus became a sphere of



interest to us and members have assisted very considerably with social and practical work.

Many members will long remember the exchange of visits between Southland and South Canterbury when bountiful hospitality and good fellowship further cemented the ties of friendship in our common work. Of great value also was the gathering of about 400 delegates at our Interprovincial Conference when the speakers were Mrs. J. R. Haldane, Provincial President, and Mrs. W. Elliott, Past Dominion President.

In 1951, I was elected to Dominion Council and wish to express my appreciation of this honour and for the privilege of serving the Division as a whole.

Meetings which have been of particular interest were the Pan Pacific Conference in Christchurch, Officers' Schools and our first Fellowship Day at which members of all twenty-six branches could meet socially.

May I, in conclusion, express my gratitude for the help and co-operation received during the term of my Provincial Presidency and offer my best wishes to the Executive for the continuation and extension of that loving service to countrywomen in the years that lie ahead.

BETTY HOLMES — Waimate

MRS. E. S. ELWORTHY — 1952-1957

AS I COMPLETE FIVE YEARS as President of this Executive, I would like to express my deep appreciation of the loyal support accorded me by all members and to say what great happiness has been mine in any service I may have given. It has been a joyful task to represent this organisation on many public occasions and to meet the members individually when I have visited their branches. The friendships I have made throughout South Canterbury and in other places where I have travelled as a delegate of W.D., mean a great deal to me and I am indeed proud of your confidence. It is my earnest hope that I have fulfilled the trust placed in me as your President, as your delegate to Dominion Conference for five consecutive years, and as a member of the governing boards of Te Kiteroa and Stratheona. In 1954, the memorable year of the Coronation and visit to New Zealand of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, we celebrated the coming-of-age of this Executive when we honoured our foundation members, Mesdames B. E. Evans, E. E. Harvey, G. H. Mulligan, P. R. Talbot and A. Ward. To these, who have given themselves so steadfastly in willing service, I would like to pay a tribute on behalf of all members, knowing that we cannot praise too highly the work for which they would not seek any reward but to know

it will ever be continued and enlarged. I would also express my gratitude to every member who assists in making the Women's Division the strong and respected organisation it is today.

In our community, an organised group is ready when called upon to assist with many causes and in this respect our branches have given continuous and enthusiastic co-operation. We are nationally and internationally minded, working together whether it be through local channels, C.O.R.S.O., Red Cross, A.C.W.W., or any effort for which goods and services are required. In regard to work of this nature, I would here quote the words of a visitor to this country—Mrs. Minikam, wife of the South East Asian Secretary for the World Council of Churches :—

‘You are richly blessed by God in your lovely country. You do not realise your blessings because you have not known anything else. But other races know that you are trying to do your best for your less fortunate neighbours. We women can bring about the union of nations more quickly than men because we are realists and believe that we must get together for world peace.’

As wives and mothers the hope of world peace is ever in our hearts and lives and as W.D.F.F. members this hope must be translated into word and deed to hasten the day when the nations shall live as one in a Christian world.

Having Te Kiteroa and Stratheona in our territory has given us opportunity for much practical service—the refurnishing of the Lady Norrie Room and the girls’ dormitory being our special contribution. Branches have always responded willingly in support of shop days, catering contracts, tutorial schools, Interprovincial Conferences and in providing hospitality for visitors from other parts of New Zealand and from overseas.

In all our activities there has been complete accord and co-operation with Federated Farmers, Country Women’s Institutes, National Council of Women, Townswomen’s Guild, Country Girls’ Clubs, Young Farmers and others.

In this year of 1957, with the celebration of our Silver Jubilee, we turn the page on the history of our first twenty-five years in South Canterbury. Our next objective will be the formation of a new Executive—the Waimate Provincial consisting of the six most southern branches.

To you who have now honoured me with Executive Life Membership, may I return my humble and sincere thanks in the earnest hope that I will be able to continue in the work of the W.D.F.F. which lies so near my heart.

‘God grant us help and grant us power to live up to our Creed,  
That we may follow in the path of those who sowed the seed.’

DENDERAH ELWORTHY — Geraldine



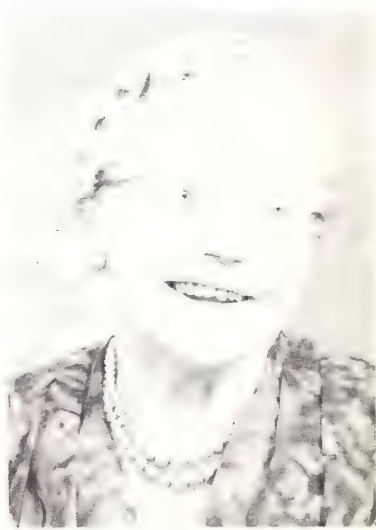
**MRS. C. F. ROSE**  
Provincial Treasurer, 1951-57



**MRS. A. J. MILNE**  
Provincial Secretary, 1956-

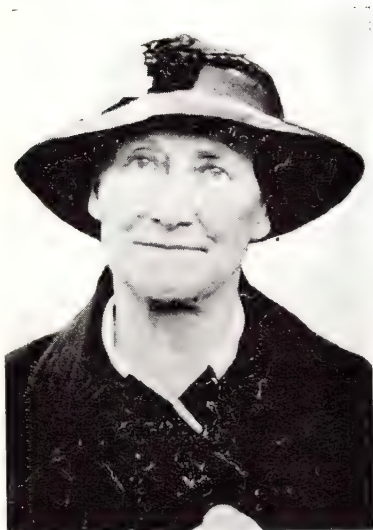


**LATE MRS. J. O. J. OLIVER**  
South Canterbury foundation member  
and assistant organiser



**MRS. J. A. McLEOD**  
Housekeeper Secretary, 1954-





**MRS. W. BUCHAN**  
Provincial President, 1938-42.



**MRS. G. A. DAVEY**  
Provincial President, 1944-48



**MRS. J. O'NEILL**  
Provincial President, 1948-50



**MRS. J. HOLMES**  
Provincial President, 1950-52





# **SOUTH CANTERBURY EXECUTIVE (about 1935)**

Front row (from left): Mesdames Hart, Meyer, Buchan (Vice-President), B. E. Evans (President), J. O. J. Oliver (Vice-President), Caird, Geddes, Centre front: Miss V. Kingston (Secretary), Middle row: P. Talbot, J. Holmes, Miss Cargill, Mrs. Harvey. Back row: —, Adams, Brosnahan, Miss Livesey, Mrs. G. H. Mulligan, —, Adams.



INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE



COUNTRY GIRLS' EDUCATIONAL WEEK

THE LATE MRS. J. O. J. OLIVER

MRS. J. O. J. OLIVER was an early member of the Timaru Branch and after Mrs. P. R. Talbot relinquished the position of President through illness, she occupied the position for one year.

She formed branches at Temuka, Geraldine and Orari Bridge and worked enthusiastically to further the work of this newly-formed society in South Canterbury.



# Housekeeping

THE HOUSEKEEPING SCHEME has always been the main feature of the South Canterbury Executive. Much of the success of this work has been due to the organisation and effort of Mrs. Gillies, our first Housekeeper-Secretary, and there are many country women who remember with gratitude the assistance given by Mrs. Gillies' housekeepers in their hour of need.

Wages have risen from 30s. per week in 1937 to £7 per week, the present standard wage. In necessitous cases, assistance in payment of wages has always been freely given from the Community Chest Fund, a fund to which branches make an annual donation.

We have been fortunate in having had several capable and conscientious housekeepers who have cheerfully given good service in many country homes. Preference has always been given to maternity cases where there are young children in the home. At times we have had difficulty in finding housekeepers to fill positions, for applications for help have always been more numerous than the number of housekeepers available to fulfil them. Often, temporary housekeepers have been employed to give much-needed help to country mothers. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Smith, Dominion Secretary, who has so often come to our aid by sending us a Division Housekeeper from Headquarters when we have been unable to supply one for a desperate case.

In addition to the Housekeeping Scheme, our Executive started a home dressmaking scheme in 1945 and this proved a great boon to country women who had the services of the dressmaker in their own home, employed in much the same way as the housekeeper. In recent years, however, owing to the difficulty of procuring dressmakers, this scheme had to be abandoned. In its place, the Co-ordinating Committee (comprising three members of the Country Women's Institute and three members of the Women's Division) organises dressmaking, handcraft, floral work and cookery classes which prove popular in country districts.

For several years now, Mrs. McLeod, the present Housekeeping-Secretary, has organised a junior housekeeping scheme during the school holidays, thereby employing secondary school girls to assist in country homes during the busy seasons, this scheme being of considerable benefit to both employers and employed. The following scale of wages has been paid :—

Girls 14 years of age	£2 10s. 0d.	per week
15 years of age	£3 0s. 0d.	per week
16 years of age	£3 10s. 0d.	per week

As the years go by, may this great philanthropic work of the Women's Division continue to grow and prosper. E. MORAN



# The Market

DURING THE YEARS OF THE DEPRESSION nothing was more popular with country women than the Timaru Market. It was started in this way. A member of the Pleasant Point Branch, Mrs. Campbell, wrote to Mrs. Evans to see if they could bring eggs and butter to the Timaru Branch for sale. Mrs. Evans wrote back to say, that it was not much use as the Timaru Branch members 'were selling the same' things. However, perhaps a market might be started, and it was.

The first market was held in premises belonging to the Wholesale Boot Company on March 24, 1932. From the minutes we have the following: Willing hands were at work at 9 a.m. getting the shop ready, and by opening time good supplies of country produce had arrived. Dressed poultry, fowls, ducks and geese, were readily sold at a price to suit both buyers and sellers. Eggs, fresh cream, vegetables and cakes met with a ready sale and by 5 p.m. everything was cleared. The idea was not to take trade from the shops, but to give farmers' wives a chance to make some money to spend in the shops. This was during the depression and farmers' wives, like most other people, had little money to spend. At first the market was held fortnightly, but in order that people would remember the right Friday, it was decided to hold the sale every week. On the first shop day we took £28 and it was a thrill at the end of the day, paying out to the members the sum of money they were entitled to. As time went on the market grew into big business and it was a sad day, when petrol was unobtainable and restrictions were so severe on the sale of goods, that the Committee decided to close the market. Not only was it a place of business but it was also a place for meeting members from other branches to have a friendly chat and often a cup of tea. Mrs. Burdon, Geraldine, was a very interested member and was the first chairman of the Market Committee with Miss Moyle, Secretary. Miss Cargill, who later joined the Division, afterwards superintended the Market and was a very popular supervisor. From being one of the most alert we regret to say that Miss Cargill is now a chronic invalid. Not hundreds of pounds but thousands passed through the hands of market treasurers. At this time of retrospection we see not only purpose and achievement but years of harmony and friendship when members and visitors alike have felt it was good to have met together.

J. C. EVANS

## Younger Set

IN 1950 THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION in Executive about what could be done for the many junior members scattered throughout our branches. Mrs. D. Burnett, then Provincial Secretary, told us of the Younger Set of the Country Women of Australia, and a move was started, with Mesdames J. Holmes and D. Burnett in the van, to form a similar organisation as an offshoot of our Executive.

On November 15, 1950, the Executive invited all junior members and others interested to a social afternoon in Houston's Lounge. From this there sprang the Younger Set with an initial membership of eleven, and the primary objectives of fellowship and entertainment.

Programmes were ambitious and well organised by the girls themselves. They ranged from picnics at Temuka, Caroline Bay and Waimate, to weekends at the Hermitage, Lake Ohau, and a stay in Christchurch for the Show. For these latter short holidays, Young Farmers from various branches were included and a chaperone provided by the Women's Division. It may be safely said that these chaperones had quite as much fun as their charges, though not always of the same kind! The Younger Set also combined at various times with the Lyalldale, Cannington and Pleasant Point Branches of the Y.F.C. to organise highly successful Balls—and having shared the work, also shared the proceeds. Places of local interest were not neglected either and tours were made of the Timaru Pottery Works and the South Canterbury Museum; there were also talks, demonstrations and three wonderful birthday parties.

Alas, due to marriages, jobs which precluded attendance at meetings, and so on, by September, 1954, membership had dropped so far that it was thought best to disband, particularly as remaining members were in a position to join the Country Girls' Club. So ended one of the most worthwhile experiments Executive has ever made.

### OFFICERS: YOUNGER SET:

Nov. 1950 to May 1952—President: Miss M. Ryan; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss V. Rooney.

June 1952 to Jan. 1953—President: Miss D. Gray; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss M. Ryan.

Jan. 1953 to May 1954—President: Miss E. Simmons; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss D. Johnson.

May 1954 to Sept. 10, 1954—President: Miss A. Grant; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss D. Johnson.

# Te Kiteroa

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE who have not been acquainted with the history of 'Te Kiteroa' the following may be of interest.

Mrs. Phillips, who had given years of faithful service to Mr. Allan McLean, of 'Waikakahi,' received a very generous bequest. She did not like Christchurch, where she had lived at 'Holly Lea,' and wanted to be nearer to the old station she loved so well. So she built 'Te Kiteroa,' (The Long View) on the Waimate hills where the bush comes down to meet the road. She did not wish to frighten away the bellbirds and to encourage them to come nearer the house, hung small cups of honey on stands by the verandahs. The roses, rhododendrons and azaleas still grow in colourful clumps along the driveway.

In 1945, the Women's Division of Federated Farmers bought this lovely house for a Rest Home. It had been run as a guest house by Mr. Napier who had purchased it after the death of Mrs. Phillips. When it again came on the market, this beautifully built house, made of the finest timbers procurable, was obtained by the W.D.F.F. for the modest sum of £1800 with furnishings at £700. Compared with prices paid for other homes, this was surely a gift.

Looking through the Guest Book of Te Kiteroa, there is nothing but praise for the treatment received by all those who have stayed at this Rest Home.

Executives from North Canterbury to Southland have in recent years taken in hand the re-decoration of all the bedrooms, thus not only adding to the comfort of the guests but also materially increasing the value and beauty of the interior. The initial work of this kind was begun by North Canterbury, who took over the 'Bledisloe' room named after Lord Bledisloe who on an occasion slept in this bedroom. Lady Norrie, too, is remembered by allowing South Canterbury to name a room after her.

A great deal of hard work, time and energy have been put into the arranging of Residential Schools. These have been greatly enjoyed by those who attended them. First class tutors were engaged and the classes conducted in professional style. Some of the profits of schools went to re-carpeting the diningroom. The original carpet wore out under the feet of many years of guests. However, with the new floorcovering and curtains (a gift from Otago) the room has a very new look.

Members have given generously to make this Home a place of rest and peace for tired women of both town and countryside. Our duty now is to keep it full of guests and so retain it that the purpose for which it was obtained may be fulfilled.

JANET EVANS, Chairwoman, Board of Governors



## Stratheona 1953—1957

IN 1951 THE STRATHEONA BOARD OF MANAGERS felt that the whole of New Zealand should benefit from the late Mr. T. D. Burnett's generosity and recommended that the W.D.F.F. should undertake the responsibility of the Stratheona Training School in Home Arts.

Accordingly with a majority vote from the Branches throughout New Zealand in favour of the project, the first Committee was set up and met on January 28, 1952.

With money (a legacy from the former Board of Managers) placed to our credit by the Trustees of the Burnett Estate, the cottage was renovated and painted and the Hostel set in order.

Mrs. Mayo, the first Principal, commenced duties on April 8 and the first trainee entered the following day. Since then girls have been trained and returned to Provincials as far apart as Whangarei and Invercargill.

There is accommodation for eight trainees and a full quota has been enrolled to enter in January. In response to inquiries from mothers requiring a temporary respite from family cares, a nursery has been furnished and trainees benefit from practical training in child care.

Miss Baird replaced Mrs. Mayo in 1953 and has been in charge of the school for the past four years, and for a short period Mrs. Baird acted as Assistant Principal.

Donations received from Branches and Provincials throughout New Zealand, especially Mid. and South Canterbury, and gifts of linen, crockery, livestock, etc., have been sufficient to maintain the Hostel without help from Community Chest. Provision of dinners to Pleasant Point District High School children, sale of eggs, cream and other farm produce have each year offset hostel expenses.

Revenue is also obtained from the leasing of fifty-three acres of farmland, fourteen acres being retained for grazing of three cows for hostel use. Two pigs, thirty pullets and hens complete the farmyard livestock.

Mesdames C. Leslie, E. Moran, P. Roberts and E. Elworthy have given valuable service for varying periods during the last four years and the personnel of the present Committee is as follows: Mrs. M. C. Milne, Dominion Vice-President; Mrs. Jamieson, Dominion Council Nominee; Miss Smith, Canterbury North; Mrs. Fairweather, Canterbury; Mrs. T. Taylor, Mid Canterbury; Mrs. Willcocks, South Canterbury; Mrs. Malcolm, North Otago; Mrs. Seaton, Pleasant Point W.D.F.F.; Mrs. W. Little, Burnett Family; Mrs. M. Archer, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. J. O'Neill, Chairman.



## Trip to Southland

THOSE OF US WHO TOOK PART in the trip through Southland as guests of the Dominion's most southern branches will always cherish the warmest memories of its beautiful scenery and wonderful hospitality.

On a Monday morning in April, 1950, twenty-six exuberant women, members of the South Canterbury Executive, gathered in Timaru for the first stage of the journey. On the point of departure, Mrs. Holmes, then President, was called away to her mother's bedside, and her place as leader of the party was taken by Mrs. Henriksen. Though dampened a little on Mrs. Holme's behalf, our spirits soon rose again, as did the noise and laughter. Not far on the journey some bright soul likened us to a 'crate of boilers' and the name stuck!

Poor Mr. Kennedy, our nice driver, how patient he was, how kind and dependable, yet with a keen sense of humour. Being the only male in the party, he was early dubbed 'Itma', and then one day when we called a roll 'How many grandmothers have we on board?' there was Mr. Kennedy's hand up too. So thereafter he was just 'Granma.'

The first night out was spent at Wanaka, and then on next day over the famous Crown Range, which it must be confessed, some of us had been dreading. However, there were no histrionics, even when, in a very narrow part, we met another 'crate of boilers,' who turned out to be a W.I. party. We overheard their driver saying to our Mr. K. 'What, have you a crowd of these women, too?' These women! Well, after a serious conference between drivers we squeezed past with a very small inch or two to spare, and with our outside wheels literally on the edge of the precipice. Quite a few alighted and took a little walking exercise.

Our tour really began when we reached Athol that afternoon and were met by members of the Southland West Executive and entertained in the local hall. The Executive organiser, Mrs. Reid, took charge of us there, and had arranged billeting for us in the Mossburn Dipton area; also a marvellous treat in an all day trip up to the Homer Tunnel. Though it rained and we were unable to see the famous peaks, the day will always remain in our memories as one of delight. Te Anau for that night, where we woke the echoes with a lovely old-fashioned sing-song, and on next day by way of beautiful Manapouri, through Mossburn, where kind Mrs. Reid left us, and so on our triumphal way — through Aparima, Tuatapere, Orepuki, Riverton, Wright's Bush, Winton, Edendale, and finally to Invercargill.

How they fêted us, no Royal party could have fared better. Morning and afternoon teas, lunches and high teas were provided at every stopping point. Southland's weather even was on exhibition, whilst here at home record floods were happening. Invercargill we found bathed in brilliant sunshine as we arrived on Friday morning in time for yet another morning tea and a trip to Bluff before lunch. Did I say 'lunch?' Let it be whispered that several members of the party were observed slinking into a fish 'n' chip shop in a search for 'something plain.'

This wonderful week reached its climax on Saturday night when we were Southland's guests at a banquet held in Elmwood Gardens. There were toasts and speeches, and items supplied by the guests. Our star turn, we considered, was our rendering of the 'Southland Saga', a topical song composed by some of the travellers, and which went quite nicely to the tune of 'Let him go, Let him tarry.'

Came Sunday morning and we gathered again for the return trip which we made via Dunedin in one day. What warm feelings filled our hearts as we left our group of waving hostesses; so many friendships made, and so many memories of kindness and hospitality to be forever cherished.

P. ROBERTS — Pleasant Point

### SOUTHLAND SAGA

We ate our way thro' Southland,  
We have travelled far and wide,  
And with your hospitality,  
We have busted out each side.

We had web feet when we started,  
But now we're feeling dry,  
And we have lots of fun on board,  
To keep our spirits high.

We like your flocks and pastures,  
And think your laddies fine,  
We'll send you down our lasses,  
For them to do a line.

We think your cooks are super,  
But your weather's not so hot,  
Tho' we are having high good times,  
With your ladies, Myrt and Dot.



MRS. E. S. ELWORTHY



MRS. P. R. TALBOT





Though we've had no Hokonui,  
We've had lots of morning dew,  
Through trails of sheets and dishes,  
We leave our love with you.

Granma Kennedy is our driver,  
'Itma' is his name,  
Our crate of tough old boilers,  
He's made so very tame.

And now you Southland ladies,  
Will visit us we hope,  
And all you need bring with you,  
Is toothbrush and some soap.

South Canterbury is where we live,  
And we're expecting you,  
So till we meet again once more,  
We bid you now adieu.

Let us stay, Let us tarry,  
We'll never go home again,  
But stay in sunny Southland,  
The place where there's no rain.

## Country Girls' Education Week

IN THE DAYS when motor cars were not very plentiful and country girls had not much opportunity of visiting and staying in a town, the thought of an Educational Week being held in Timaru was received with much enthusiasm. Mrs. B. E. Evans, Provincial President, arranged a programme beginning on Monday and finishing on Friday evening with a concert. Eighty girls attended the first Educational Week. The programmes arranged were varied and consisted of physical exercises, educational talks, travel talks and demonstrations on a variety of subjects. A trip to Christchurch by train proved very popular. Here the girls were met by North Canterbury members who had arranged a most interesting day. The shops, the gardens, museum and art gallery were visited. A tired but very happy group of girls arrived back in Timaru with the knowledge of what it is like to be in a big city. Altogether three Educational Weeks were held. Mrs. E. Harvey, Timaru Branch, proved to be a very willing helping hand during those weeks and her aid was very much appreciated by Mrs. Evans. J. C. EVANS

# The South Canterbury Co-ordinating Committee

THE SOUTH CANTERBURY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE was formed on February 20, 1948, the following ladies being present: Mesdames G. A. Davey, B. E. Evans, J. O'Neill, J. A. McLeod (Women's Division); F. Martin, S. Unwin, and Miss D. Hurst (Women's Institutes). It was proposed by Mrs. Evans and seconded by Mrs. McLeod, that the South Canterbury Co-ordinating Committee be formed. Mrs. Unwin was voted to the chair and Mrs. McLeod appointed secretary.

Throughout the eleven years that it has been in operation, it has been of great value to country women. The Director of Adult Education in Christchurch, Mr. D. W. Rutherford, has given every assistance in arranging classes in various subjects and the Adult Education tutors stationed in Timaru have always made their services available, travelling to any area on request.

In its first year, drama classes were exceedingly popular and the festivals arranged were of a high standard. Then in 1950, under the Adult Education Department, classes in food, clothing and millinery were conducted. The interest in these circuits has been well maintained and the Committee has assisted the Department in making all the arrangements.

Another important work undertaken has been schools in various subjects. The first, in 1952, was of four days' duration when the topic was Floral Art and since then a school on this subject has been held almost every year. They have been largely attended proving both popular and successful, and have been extended to include Interior Decorating, Horticulture, Cookery and Dressmaking. Trips to Lincoln College have been organised and one group of 130 is recorded as the largest women's class ever to attend the College.

The present Committee, consisting of Mesdames G. H. Mulligan (Chairwoman), A. Challis, E. S. Elworthy, W. Little, E. E. Hook, W. Watson, J. G. D. Willcocks and J. A. McLeod (Secretary), are already formulating plans in connection with the Centennial celebrations in South Canterbury.

LILY MCLEOD

## National Council of Women

ALMOST FROM ITS INCEPTION, the South Canterbury Executive has been represented on the National Council of Women by Mrs. B. E. Evans, who has brought back reports from the meetings she has regularly attended.

## Associated Countrywomen of the World

TOGETHER WITH OTHER EXECUTIVES of W.D.F.F., South Canterbury is affiliated with the world association of country women, namely A.C.W.W.

To aid in rendering both practical and cultural assistance to country women in lands less favoured than our own, our branches annually collect 'Pennies for Friendship' and each year A.C.W.W. decides on a country for study so that we might more fully understand the problems of country women throughout the world. The A.C.W.W. also holds a world-wide essay competition.



# List of Officers 1932-1957

## DOMINION LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. B. E. Evans, Past Dominion Vice-President and Advisory Board member for fourteen years — Timaru Branch.

Mrs. P. R. Talbot, Dominion Foundation member — Timaru Branch.

## SOUTH CANTERBURY EXECUTIVE LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. E. E. Harvey — Timaru

Mrs. G. H. Mulligan — Timaru

Mrs. A. Ward — Southburn

Mrs. E. S. Elworthy — Geraldine

## BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. J. O'Neill — Albury

Mrs. H. Coulter — Orari Bridge

Miss G. O'Reilly — Albury

Mrs. B. Quigley — Orari Bridge

Mrs. G. Squire — Cannington

The late Mrs. C. Ley — Pleasant Point

Mrs. W. R. McConnell — Fairlie

Mrs. O. G. Parr — Skipton

Mrs. R. A. Dixon — Geraldine

Mrs. G. A. Davey — Temuka

Mrs. R. Volckman — Geraldine

Mrs. W. H. Davey — Temuka

Mrs. H. E. Blackler — Hazelburn

Mrs. J. A. McLeod — Timaru

Mrs. C. Henriksen — Hazelburn

Mrs. E. Moran — Timaru

Mrs. C. F. Rose — Hook

Miss B. Moyle — Timaru

Miss E. Rooney — Kingsdown

The late Mrs. J. C. Hay — Waimate

Mrs. R. W. Dale — Maungati

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

1932-38 Mrs. B. E. Evans

1948-50 Mrs. J. O'Neill

1938-42 Mrs. W. Buchan

1950-52 Mrs. J. Holmes

1942-44 Mrs. B. E. Evans

1952-57 Mrs. E. S. Elworthy

1944-48 Mrs. G. A. Davey

### EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS

1932 Mesdames M. Burdon, W. Buchan.

1934 Mesdames M. Burdon, W. Buchan, J. O. J. Oliver.

1935-37 Mesdames M. Burdon, W. Buchan, Meyer.

1938 Mesdames M. Burdon, W. Buchan, Meyer, Goulter.

1939 Mesdames Goulter, Chapman, Miss Barnett.

1940 Mesdames Watson, Chapman, Miss Cargill.

1941 Mesdames W. S. Crotty, O. G. Parr, Miss Cargill.

#### EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS *(continued)*

- 1942 Mesdames P. D. Roberts, A. Ward, Miss Cargill.  
1943 Mesdames G. A. Davey, W. S. Crotty.  
1944 Mesdames W. S. Crotty, Bolderston.  
1945-46 Mesdames J. O'Neill, P. D. Roberts.  
1947 Mesdames J. O'Neill, J. Holmes, Miss Cargill.  
1948-49 Mesdames J. Holmes, G. A. Davey, R. A. Riddle, C. Henriksen.  
1950 Mesdames R. A. Riddle, C. Henriksen.  
1951 Mesdames R. A. Riddle, E. S. Elworthy, P. R. Talbot.  
1952 Mesdames R. A. Riddle, P. Roberts, J. O'Neill, C. Henriksen.  
1953 Mesdames C. Henriksen, Jas. O'Neill, P. D. Roberts, G. Hennessy.  
1954 Mesdames W. A. Little, W. Esler, G. Hennessy, G. H. Paton.  
1955 Mesdames J. Holmes, T. Clarkson, K. Clarke, G. H. Paton.  
1956 Mesdames J. Holmes, R. A. Riddle, J. G. D. Willcocks.

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

1932 Mrs. D. Crosbie.

From this time until 1941, by courtesy of the Manager of the Timaru Branch of the Otago Farmers' Union Mutual Fire Insurance Association, the Executive, for an annual fee of £10, were granted the use of their office and secretary who combined the work of treasurer and housekeeper secretary also. To these secretaries, Miss V. Kingston, Miss A. Duncan and Miss E. M. Lister, the W.D.F.F. would like to pay a tribute of gratitude for painstaking and efficient work and service unstintingly given in the interests of countrywomen.

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

- 1942-1944 Miss J. Barbour ; Mrs. W. S. Crotty.  
1944-1945 Miss J. Barbour ; Miss N. Maxwell.  
1945-1946 Miss B. Lysaght ; Miss N. Maxwell.  
1947-1950 Miss B. Lysaght, Secretary-Treasurer.  
1950-1951 Mrs. D. Burnett, Secretary-Treasurer.  
1951-1952 Mrs. D. Burnett ; Mrs. C. F. Rose.  
1952-1954 Mrs. W. A. Little ; Mrs. C. F. Rose.  
1954-1956 Mrs. J. G. D. Willcocks ; Mrs. C. F. Rose.  
1956-1957 Mrs. A. J. Milne ; Mrs. C. F. Rose.

HOUSEKEEPING SECRETARIES

1939-41 Mrs. G. Nicol

1941-45 Mrs. H. Taylor

1945-49 Mrs. E. Moran

1949-51 Mrs J. G. D. Willcocks

1951-54 Mrs. L. M. Gibson

1954- Mrs. J. A. McLeod

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*THE COUNTRY SCENE*

These gifts are ours —  
Bright heritage of land, wide, fragrant, free,  
The everlasting hills, not always green,  
But sometimes bare, or silent, clad in snow,  
And shadows cast by trees, tall, sheltering, cool,  
Across the heat-hazed fields of harvest bronze,  
Or unmown grass in flight before the wind  
That gently blows, or cold, or monstrous wild,  
When birds from storm at sea come in to land,  
Sea birds so white, earth black beneath the plough.  
Long days of rain, creeks high in flood, blocked roads,  
And aftermath of mud. No beauty then,  
For Nature both creates and will destroy ;  
But golden days forget distress, birds sing,  
The green earth mother cherishes new life,  
And steadfast still, man sees the seasons change,  
Sunrise to day's dim end, time's cycle turns,  
Its promise kept. The land, benign, beloved,  
Calls softly to our hearts and we are blessed,  
Where far horizons turn our eyes to God.

OLIVE MILNE — Hazelburn



# Branch Histories

## Albury

INTERESTED REPRESENTATIVES from Mt. Nessing, Tengawai, Chamberlain and Ma Waro districts were among the thirty-two women, who, on August 18, 1931, met in the Albury Hall to welcome Mrs. Evans, President, and Mrs. Gillies, Housekeeping Secretary, of the Timaru Branch W.D.F.U.

The Albury Branch duly formed was presided over by Mrs. I. Smith until 1933. Miss Fraser and Mesdames Adams, Cox and Loomes each held office for one year and in 1937 Mrs. O'Neill was appointed President, which position she held, except for the period 1939-40, when Mrs. Brown held office, until 1957. At present the presidency is in the capable hands of Mrs. S. D. Taylor.

The first Secretary-Treasurer, Miss J. Smaill, was followed from 1933 by Mesdames H. Adam, A. Cox, D. Loomes and Miss G. O'Reilly who has created a record in the Branch in holding the position of Secretary continuously for over twenty-one years. She was ably assisted during the war years, 1941-44, by Miss J. Bisley. Mrs. I. Smith succeeded Miss Smaill as Treasurer and Miss Fraser, Mesdames F. Davidson, A. Golding, W. Shire in turn held our purse strings until our present Treasurer, Mrs. Casey, was appointed in 1948 and has to date given nine years faithful service.

Keen enthusiasm marked the first years of the Branch's history. Community chest was loyally supported, competitions and sales tables were regular features, assistance was given to the local unemployed camp and a Drama Circle in the capable hands of Miss O'Reilly, a local teacher, proved a most successful venture.

The W.D. Shop was well supported and members combined with Mt. Nessing Institute in a Display Bay at the Winter Show.

During these years an outstanding contribution as a demonstrator, competitor and delegate to the Executive and Shop was made by Miss H. Fraser, whose name is also perpetuated in the Branch by her generous donation of the Fraser Challenge Cup.

However by 1936 interest in the movement seems to have waned, attendance at meetings dropped, due partly to the fact that W.D.'s and W.I.'s were formed in the outlying districts and with returning

prosperity the W.D. Shop was not an essential source of revenue. By 1939, however, the Branch had taken a new lease of life and added to its responsibilities all aspects of Patriotic work including supplying clothing for the Lady Galway Guild, food for the Welcome Club, knitting for the Merchant Navy, and in one year despatched 126 food parcels to soldiers overseas.

Post war years have brought their special appeals and the sponsoring of a French girl and donations to Hungary and Korea have been among our philanthropic works.

For the last six years an Annual Day Out has been added to our programme with the result that most members can speak with authority on scenic attractions between Longbeach and Oamaru.

What more fitting conclusion than to record the sponsorship of the Albury Country Girls' Club, whose members we trust will carry on with even greater success the responsibility of the Albury W.D.F.F.

## Cannington

CANNINGTON'S FIRST CLAIM TO FAME was the fact that it was through this valley in the hills that Mackenzie, the sheep-stealer, wended his inglorious way to the Pass which bears his name, with a mob of stolen sheep. On September 23, 1933, Mrs. B. E. Evans, Provincial President, and Miss Kingston, Provincial Secretary, journeyed over the Gorge Hill to a meeting convened by Mrs. Gerald Mathias.

After hearing the aims, objects and advantages to be gained by becoming members of the organisation as ably portrayed by the above ladies the women folk present decided on the motion of Mrs. G. Squire, seconded by Mrs. H. Campbell, that a branch of the W.D. be formed. Mrs. J. Little was duly elected the first President and Miss V. McLean, Secretary.

During the twenty-four years which comprise the life of the Branch the membership has remained in the vicinity of forty. The members have been loyal to the ideals of W.D. Also as a combined body they have contributed to the welfare of the district in any way possible. The twenty-first birthday was celebrated in due course at which the Branch was pleased to honour Mrs. G. Squire with Life Membership for her loyal devotion to W.D. down the years.



#### MEMBERS OF SOUTHLAND TOUR, 1950

Left to right: Mrs. E. S. Elworthy (Four Peaks), Miss G. O'Reilly (Albury), Mesdames Scott (Orari Bridge), S. D. Taylor (Albury), J. O'Neill (Fairlie), C. H. S. Johnston (Otaio), Burnett (Cannington), D. Gray (St. Andrews), Boyce (Waimate), A. E. Blackwood (Timaru), Meikle (Waimate), P. Roberts (Pleasant Point), W. A. Little (Cave), B. E. Evans (Maungati), C. F. Rose (Hook), C. Henriksen (Hazelburn), Miss Simmons (Kingsdown). In the bus: Mesdames Wareing (Fairlie), P. Talbot (Claremont), J. G. D. Willcocks (Timaru).



#### TIMARU BRANCH

Back row (left to right): Mesdames Biddington, H. N. Alleway, H. J. L. Bailey, Munroe, J. Robbie, A. Geddis, B. A. White, W. J. Hosking, Thompson. Middle row: Mesdames E. E. Clarke, W. Grant, W. Foster, P. Ruston, W. E. Moyle, Omelvena, C. R. Waring, A. Blackwood, J. C. Ryan, E. M. Coventry, Miss G. E. McKenzie, Mesdames W. Scott, E. M. Morrison, M. L. Devenney, E. D. Crampton, H. M. Whyte. Front row: Mesdames Hutton, J. A. McLeod, Miss B. Moyle, Mesdames P. R. Talbot, B. E. Evans, G. H. Mulligan, M. J. Moran, J. G. D. Willcocks, J. Phaup, Miss Connell.





#### CLANDEBOYE BRANCH MEMBERS

Back row (from left): Mesdames A. Donehune, A. Botting, Miss I. Prestidge, Mrs. L. Phiskie (Jun.). Second row: Mesdames D. Davidson, D. Ritchie, H. Woodley, F. Carter, F. Green, B. Forbes, T. Symes, D. Aker. Third row: Mesdames J. Kernohan, W. Beck, B. Norton (Treasurer), J. B. Drake (President), H. G. Beck (Secretary), L. G. Phiskie (Junior Vice-President), R. M. Moore, C. Kelland. Front row: Mesdames J. Mackle, T. Wallace, Miss M. Brown, Mesdames T. G. Millar, W. Leslie, H. Dellow, J. D. Brown (Senior Vice-President), W. Adair (standing). Absent: Mesdames E. Dobson, H. Goodson, A. Ritchie (Jun.), R. Bisdee, H. McDonald, G. Wallace, J. Johnson, E. Kelland, J. Merrin, T. Sherrieff, N. Sherrieff, S. Parkes and Miss P. Adair.



#### SOUTHBURN MEMBERS

The following is a list of Presidents and Secretaries who have held office :—

*Presidents :*

1933	Mrs. J. Little
1934	Mrs. W. Howell
1946	Mrs. W. Howell
1935-39	Mrs. G. Squire
1943-46	Mrs. G. Squire
1939	Mrs. C. Malthus
1940	Mrs. G. Mathias
1941-43	Mrs. A. S. McPherson
1947	Miss H. McKenzie
1952-54	Mrs. W. A. Little
1948-52	Mrs. R. A. Riddle
1954-57	Mrs. R. A. Riddle

*Secretaries :*

1933-35	Miss V. McLean
1935	Miss R. Wisely
1936-38	Mrs. J. Little
1938-43	Miss G. Blackmore
1943	Mrs. W. Howell
1944	Miss Carson
1945-47	Miss H. McKenzie
1947	Mrs. R. A. Riddle
1948-51	Mrs. D. Burnett
1951	Miss J. Campbell
1952	Mrs. A. McKerchar
1953	Mrs. G. Squire
1954-57	Mrs. W. A. Little

## Clandeboyce

'CLANDEBOYE — WHERE IS THAT ?' is a question we members of the Clandeboyce Branch of the W.D. are quite accustomed to hear, and the answer is 'Clandeboyce is a dairying and mixed farming district on the east coast, eight miles north east of Temuka, and our members are drawn from the area between the lower reaches of the Orari and Rangitata Rivers.' Clandeboyce was given its name in 1886 by Mr. William McCully, from his birthplace 'Clandeboyce,' an estate in Northern Ireland owned by Lord Dufferin and situated about eight miles from Belfast and one mile from Bangor, a well-known seaside resort.

May 4, 1932, saw the inaugural meeting of the Clandeboyce Branch of the W.D., Mrs. B. E. Evans, Organiser for South Canterbury, being the Founder, and with her were associated Mrs. Talbot, Mrs. Buchan and Mrs. Oliver of the Temuka Branch who promised help and support from that Branch. This promise was faithfully kept and Temuka's help in our early years and indeed up to the present day has been greatly appreciated. Of the ten women present at the inaugural meeting, four — Mrs. Adair, Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Mulligan — are still active members of the Branch.

Despite the rather pessimistic outlook of our men folk, who gloomily prophesied a mere flash-in-the-pan interest — the inspiration received at our inaugural meeting remained, and interest continued to grow, attendance at our first monthly meeting being seventeen.

This has now, in our twenty-second year, increased to a membership of fifty with an average attendance of thirty-two at monthly meetings.

Our first really big undertaking was in 1937 when, in conjunction with Temuka Branch, we were asked to provide morning tea for between 250 and 300 Otago farmers and other visitors. This effort won commendation from the sponsors of the trip, the South Canterbury Farmers' Union.

During the war years, when petrol rationing made things very difficult, we were fortunate in having Mrs. G. A. N. Bolderston as president, under whose guidance a special effort was made to help with Patriotic Activities. These included the sending of 387 parcels to local men serving overseas, making collections of scrap iron, rubber, paper, etc., as well as knitting and sewing for Merchant Navy and Lady Galway Guild.

The Annual Spring Flower Show commenced in 1943, has proved to be one of our most successful efforts, the first show attracting 130 entries, while in 1952 entries had increased to 625. The sales table held in conjunction with the show is responsible for solving most of our financial problems.

The recently formed choir of fourteen voices is a great asset and its performances at our social functions, under the leadership of Mrs. C. Prestidge, prove most popular and enjoyable.

Through the years we have been fortunate in having visits from Dominion officials and Provincial Presidents and these greatly stimulate our interest in the work of the Women's Division.

The choir is still doing yeoman service and for the last two Christmasses they have gone carolling in the Clandeboye district and raised a considerable sum for various charities.

During 1955 we had the pleasure of entertaining a touring party of Australian farmers and their wives. In 1956, the Geraldine County Council celebrated their Centennial and a floral float entered by our Branch was awarded a special prize. Our members also catered for two Young Farmers' ploughing matches. The Federated Farmers of Temuka held a one-day course of lectures at Clandeboye for which we catered, supplying lunch, morning and afternoon tea for 100.

As a fitting climax to our history, on May 14, 1957, we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary. The celebrations, which were an outstanding success, took the form of a banquet followed by a ball.

Our membership now stands at fifty.



Officers of the Clandeboye Branch of the W.D.F.F. over the years are as follows :—

<i>Presidents :</i>		<i>Secretaries :</i>	
1933	Mrs. G. A. N. Bolderston	1932	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan
1936	Mrs. H. T. Dunn	1935	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan
1939-46	Mrs. G. A. N. Bolderston	1937	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan
1934-36	Miss M. E. Livesey	1943-47	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan
1936-39	Miss M. E. Livesey	1954	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan
1946-52	Mrs. L. G. Phiskie	1933	Miss E. Livesey
1952-54	Mrs. G. H. Mulligan	1934	Miss E. Henderson
1954-57	Mrs. J. B. Drake	1936	Miss W. Mackie
		1938	Mrs. J. D. Brown
		1951-53	Mrs. J. D. Brown
		1939	Miss W. Livesey
		1940	Mrs. R. Bisdee
		1941-43	Miss J. Flett
		1947-51	Miss E. Langrell
		1953	Mrs. R. Moore
		1955-57	Miss P. Adair
		1957-	Mrs. H. G. Beck

## Cricklewood

ON JUNE 23, 1953, a gathering of ten ladies of the Cricklewood district met in the Cricklewood Hall and were given an interesting address on the aims and objects of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers by Mrs. J. O'Neill, Albury. Election of officers resulted in Mrs. McLean being elected president, Mrs. R. Coles secretary, Mrs. Welsh treasurer and Mrs. Scott competition steward.

The first annual meeting was held on April 13, 1954, when Mrs. McLean was again elected president, Mrs. Walsh secretary, Mrs. Welsh treasurer, and Mrs. Bruere competition steward.

A quilt was made from peggy squares in February for C.O.R.S.O.

April, 1955, was the annual meeting when Mrs. R. Coles was elected president, Mrs. Walsh secretary, Mrs. L. Norton treasurer, and Mrs. Bruere competition steward.

In attendance at the July meeting were Mrs. Peacock and Mrs. Unwin representing 'Save the Children Fund.' After hearing their views members agreed to adopt a French boy.

April 12, 1956, was the Annual Meeting where Mrs. McLean was elected president, Mrs. Walsh secretary, Mrs. L. Norton treasurer, and Mrs. Bruere competition steward.

A parcel of food with a quilt made from peggy squares was dispatched in October to the sponsored child.

The present number of members is fifteen.



## Fairlie

IN THE PARISH HALL, Fairlie, on May 26, 1932, the Farmers' Union had invited Mrs. B. E. Evans, Organiser of the Women's Division, South Canterbury, to speak at their meeting. Mrs. Evans was introduced by Mr. Trotter and spoke at length on the advantages of forming a branch in Fairlie. When the men retired to hold their meeting a motion to form a branch of the Women's Division in Fairlie was carried unanimously. The following officers were elected :

*President:* Miss C. Macdonald.

*Vice-President:* Mrs. Barnes.

*Secretary:* Miss A. Watson.

*Treasurer:* Mrs. T. Crampton.

*Members:* Mesdames A. H. Gillingham, Monahan, Talbot, Larcombe, Giddings, Black, McConnell, Moran, Dore, Fraser, Morris, Barnes, T. Crampton, Campbell, Doyle and Misses Moyle and Isitt.

Mrs. Evans, who was accompanied by Mrs. P. Talbot, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks and musical items and supper were then enjoyed by all present.

At the first meeting it was decided to hold meetings in the Presbyterian Sunday School and meetings were held there for twenty-three years. At this meeting members were asked to bring one new member and at our fourth meeting the membership had doubled.

These being the years of the depression, one of the early efforts was a request of the Railways Department to reduce fares on the train to 3s. 6d. once a month to enable farmers and their wives to visit Timaru for business purposes, as farmers were unable to use their cars. At Christmas time members provided Christmas dinners for a number of Fairlie families in poor circumstances.

The celebration of the Coming-of-Age and Silver Jubilee of the Branch were high-lights in our history.

Over the years, ten Presidents have guided the Branch through some difficult years. The present membership is forty and Mrs. C. Ross is President.

## Geraldine

THE INAUGURAL MEETING, held on October 15, 1930, was presided over by Mr. McLean who introduced Mrs. J. O. J. Oliver, President of Timaru Branch, and Mrs. McCormick of Temuka W.D.F.U. Under their guidance the Geraldine Branch was formed and three of the foundation members — Mesdames Heslop, Volckman and Miss McLean are still attending. Monthly programmes were arranged

to include competitions, demonstrations and addresses, exchange tables and sales tables. At the time of the Napier earthquake fourteen bales of clothing were sent from the district, the membership then numbered forty-three. Members assisted at a stall at the Winchester Show and also at a bay at the Timaru Winter Show. Delegates attended the Friendly Conferences in Timaru which in 1932 gave place to the Provincial Executive with Mrs. M. Burdon elected a Vice-President. When in January, 1933, the Dominion Conference was held in Timaru, delegates were entertained at 'Parkhurst,' the home of the Geraldine President, Mrs. Burdon.

Geraldine Branch maintained an interest in the boys of Flock House, sending gifts and donations up to 1938 when the property was presented to the W.D.F.U. by the Trustees of the N.Z. Sheepowners' Association and 'Flock House' became 'Kaianga Moe.'

When funds were necessary in order to support various local appeals, we held musical afternoons, community sings and shop days. The first picnic was held at Waihi Gorge in 1936 and members attended from Orari Bridge, Temuka, Clandeboyne and Kakahu Branches. In 1937, together with Orari Bridge and Kakahu, we entertained a visiting party of the Otago Farmers' Union members and their wives at luncheon in the Geraldine Town Hall.

Support was always given to the Market held in Timaru and members were especially grateful to Mrs. Watson who regularly collected and transported their produce every Friday for three years, during her time as president.

During the war years when the Branch formed a 'Soldiers' Comforts Guild,' every effort was made to help those who served so nobly overseas and those who needed assistance at home. Cakes were sent as personal gifts to Mr. Churchill and Field-Marshal Montgomery whose letters of thanks are treasured mementoes of those war-torn years.

Since 1944, members have every year assisted the Institute for the Blind by collecting at the Geraldine Ewe Fair and by their house-to-house collection raised more than £130 for the new Hostel for the Aged Blind in Christchurch.

C.O.R.S.O. appeals have always been supported and a Greek child sponsored.

The honour of Branch Life Membership has been bestowed on Mrs. R. A. Dixon, Secretary for nine years, and Mrs. R. Volckman, Treasurer for thirteen years.

We honour all those who formed this branch, those who have held office and those who have given of their best as members. All have rendered something of lasting value to this Branch by their foresight and unselfishness, their patience and denial in the

days of depression, their courage in the war-scarred years. They have stood fast, four square for God, for Home, for Country, for Empire — truly a service without end.

Officers over the years are as follows :—

<i>Presidents:</i>		<i>Secretaries:</i>	
1930-31	Mrs. J. A. McLean	1930-31	Miss Ladbroke
1930-31	Mrs. J. A. McLean	1931-32	Mrs. M. Burdon
1931-32,		1932-41	Mrs. R. A. Dixon
& 35-36	Mrs. J. Wordsworth	1941-43	Mrs. R. W. L. Beattie
1932-35,		1943-46	Mrs. McColl
& 36-37	Mrs. M. Burdon	1946-49	Mrs. Tavener
1937-40	Mrs. W. Watson	1949-50	Mrs. J. C. B. Baker
1940-43	Mrs. W. S. Crotty	1950-51	Mrs. J. Reid
1943-47	Mrs. R. A. Bruce	1951-52	Mrs. Knibb
1947-50	Mrs. F. I. Parr	1952-54	Mrs. R. W. L. Beattie
1950-54	Mrs. E. S. Elworthy	1954-	Mrs. J. C. B. Baker
1954-55	Mrs. C. Beavan		
1955-57	Mrs. A. Pithie		
1957-	Mrs. O. G. Parr		

#### *Treasurers:*

1930-43	Mrs. R. Volckman
1943-49	Mrs. Scotney
1949-50	Mrs. G. Bailey
1950-54	Mrs. P. M. Patrick
1954-	Mrs. H. Taylor

## Hazelburn

THE HAZELBURN BRANCH of W.D.F.F. was the eleventh branch formed in the South Canterbury Provincial Executive on September 16, 1933. Mrs. B. E. Evans, Provincial President at the time, was introduced to the meeting by Mrs. F. Shires who had been instrumental in the formation of the branch. Mrs. Evans was accompanied by Mrs. P. R. Talbot, Miss Kingston (Provincial Secretary) and Mrs. Ley (President of the Pleasant Point Branch).

The original officers were: President, Mrs. F. Shires; vice-presidents, Mrs. D. Blacker and Mrs. Howden; secretary, Miss Watkins; treasurer, Miss Hazel Blackler; advisory member, Mrs. J. Mowat; market committee, Mrs. Fenwick and Mrs. O. Blackler.

During 1930-40 membership was poor but at present attendance is good and membership is now thirty-six. Our district is very scattered and members travel many miles to attend meetings. The war



years were very busy ones for the branch. Much knitting was done and many comforts were sent to our servicemen. Parcels were sent regularly to all local men serving overseas. After the war, food parcels were sent monthly to aged and infirm people in Britain and in 1957 an English child was sponsored under 'Save the Children Fund'.

Of the original members only one remains, Mrs. H. Blackler. The other original members have left the district but their daughters and daughters-in-law are still members and carry on the work of the organisation. At present the branch is composed mostly of young members who bring their babies with them to the meetings and the young mothers benefit greatly by their social contacts at W.D.F.F. At a recent meeting there were thirty-five infants present and it was a great joy to all to see so many happy youngsters amongst our members.

During recent years two members have been presented with Life Membership Badges. They are Mrs. H. Blackler and Mrs. C. Henriksen whose devotion to W.D.F.F. affairs has earned the admiration of all.

Over the years the following have given of their services as presidents: Mesdames F. Shires, H. Blackler, E. Wolff, Glennie, C. Henriksen and A. Milne. The secretaries have been Misses Watkins, M. O'Connell, M. Glennie, H. Mowat, E. Glennie, Mesdames O'Connell, Wolff, H. Blackler, E. Chapman, D. Park, J. Moses and V. G. Lyon.

The Hazelburn members have found the W.D.F.F. to be a means of providing social life that otherwise they would not have had. Many and varied have been the parties that have been held – garden parties, birthday parties, Christmas parties (complete with tree and presents and Santa Claus in all his glory), euchre parties, teenage parties, picnics and, in 1954, a very wonderful twenty-first birthday party. There have been interesting and instructive talks from members of neighbouring branches and once we were thrilled to entertain a bus-load of Southland W.D.F.F. members. Not all our talks have been given by local people, however. Many who have visited foreign places have come to tell us of their experiences. And then there was the time we had a talk by a traffic officer who very nobly 'caught' a member's husband for a small traffic offence on the way home!

Our members have given generously to many worthy causes – Community Chest, Executive, Rest Homes, Stratheona, Lepers, C.O.R.S.O., Red Cross, Hungarian Refugees, Save the Children Fund, and each year a wreath is placed on the Soldiers' Memorial. Members feel that the W.D. fills a great need in the community and it is our earnest wish that this good work may continue to flourish in this district.



## Hook

ON MAY 7, 1935, Mrs. B. E. Evans, Provincial President, formed the Hook Branch, W.D.F.F. It was an easy matter for someone to propose that a branch be formed but when it came to getting a president, that was far from easy. After afternoon tea, which Mrs. Evans said we didn't want—we wanted a president—Mrs. J. Rooney consented to be president with Mrs. C. F. Rose secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Rooney held office for one year and then was elected again in our twenty-first year. Mrs. W. R. Todd held the office of president for eight years. For varying periods, Miss G. Tiffen, Mesdames D. Campbell, H. Mason, C. F. Rose, S. H. Bruce, A. Chapman, E. O. Ball and W. Bell were also presidents, in that order. Secretary-Treasurers: Mesdames C. F. Rose, N. Hadler, D. Campbell, E. O. Ball, Misses M. Harris and M. Wilson.

When the branch was first formed we held an annual concert to raise funds for Community Chest. After that, euchre parties were held for the same purpose. For the last few years we have held euchre parties to help pay delegates expenses to Conference.

In 1947 it was decided to hold an autumn flower show, so in February, 1948, our first flower show was held. This show is now an annual event which helps our funds very much. It also helps to bring the people of the district closer together, both men and women. The menfolk help in every way they can, both by doing the heavy work and by entering exhibits. Every year a spring flower show is held for members only.

During the years, the branch, which represents all the women of the district, has been asked by other organisations in the district to help by catering, etc., for functions—School Jubilee Committee, School Committee, F.F., Y.F.C., War Memorial Committee, Gymkhana Committee and Rifle Club.

Every year a picnic is held. These outings bring the members together and quite often are the means of getting new members.

As often as possible demonstrations and talks on interesting subjects have been given. Demonstrations are what members are interested in and they have learned a lot from them.

In May, 1956, we held our twenty-first birthday party. At this function Mrs. C. F. Rose was made a Life Member of the branch. She had been fourteen years secretary-treasurer and three years president.

Membership has always been between thirty and thirty-five.



TE KITEROA REST HOME, WAIMATE



TE KITEROA COMMITTEE

Back row (from left): Mesdames M. C. Milne (Dominion Council), Campbell (Hook), T. S. Watson (Southland), Taylor (Ashburton), Miss Allan (North Otago), Mrs. Orchard (Canterbury). Front row: Mesdames Dunn (Otago), Charles (Otago), B. E. Evans (Chair), J. C. Faulkner (Waimate), Miss Bitchener (Waimate).



STRATHEONA, PLEASANT POINT  
Matron and Trainees



STRATHEONA  
Cookery Lesson with Miss Baird





#### MAUNGATI BRANCH

Back row (left to right): Mrs. J. Tiffen, Mrs. P. Bradley, Mrs. G. Eggleton, Mrs. E. Hendry, Mesdames N. Wood, N. Seay, A. Jones, B. Bispham, Miss H. Ellis, Mesdames W. Walker, T. Dale, S. Waldron, A. Cookson, A. Evans, G. Coles.  
Front row: Mesdames R. Harris, G. Reid, R. W. Dale, R. Ford, A. Cookson (Snr.), D. Dent.



#### OTAIO BRANCH

Foundation members present at Twenty-first Birthday of Otaio W.D.F.F., taken with Mrs. E. S. Elworthy (Provincial President) and Mrs. B. E. Evans. Back row (from left): Mesdames E. S. Elworthy, B. E. Evans, G. Hall, F. Martin, Miss M. Hall. Front row: Miss S. Forrest, Mesdames Forrest, Ayethorne, Miss M. Brunton, Mrs. East. Absent: Mrs. E. Dix.





**GERALDINE W.D.F.F. TWENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTY,  
TOWN HALL, GERALDINE, OCTOBER, 1955**

President and Former Presidents, October, 1955: Mesdames W. S. Crotty (1940-43), R. A. Bruce (1943-47), J. W. Wordsworth (1931-32, 1935-36), Mrs. A. Pithie (President), Mrs. E. S. Elworthy (1950-54), Mrs. F. O. Parr (1957-58).



**GERALDINE DIVISION BRANCH, 1958-59**

Back row (left to right): Mesdames C. S. Davies, L. T. Mitchell, H. L. Omelvena (Vice-President), Miss Walker, Mesdames W. S. T. Dean, J. Rae, A. O. G. Johnson, H. Taylor (Treasurer), R. A. Hawke, F. J. Thatcher (pianist), A. Toomey, M. Mathieson, F. A. Elliot. Middle row: Mesdames G. E. Crotty, Wright, E. S. Elworthy, F. I. Parr, R. W. L. Beattie, Simmons, M. Anderson, L. F. Baker (Vice-President), A. M. Mahan, E. Maxwell, Snell (W.D.F.F. Housekeeper), F. Blissett (Assistant Treasurer). Front row: Mesdames F. D. Carter, A. Pithie (Vice-President), T. H. Hughes, A. Ford, J. C. B. Baker (President), A. F. Quantock (Secretary), W. S. Crotty, Ronald Volekman (Life Member), O. G. Parr, Miss Campbell (O.B.E.), Mrs. P. M. Patrick, Miss Ina Johnson (President, Country Girls' Club).

# Kakahu

MRS. CHARLES LEY, Pleasant Point Branch President, called a meeting in her own district of Kakahu on November 10, 1934. Nine ladies were in the old Bush School (where Jessie McKay, New Zealand's first woman poet, taught in the early days) to hear Mrs. B. E. Evans explain the aims of the Women's Division. A branch was formed and Miss A. Maxwell, daughter of the oldest family in the district, became President, and Mrs. A. Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer. At the second meeting seven new members were welcomed. We formed a Drama Circle, started a library, and had demonstrations on anything from the making of a sunshade to the reseating of boys' trousers. In February, 1937, the first Flower Show was held, while in October of that year there is recorded the fact that members were not in favour of Mr. Burnett's plan to start Stratheona. Nevertheless, in May, 1938, Miss Maxwell reported on the opening. In June, 1938, some members joined a farmers' tour of Otago, but in September, 1939, the branch dropped its normal activities to concentrate on war work.

By 1948, young members marrying and older ones failing in health, almost killed the branch, but then there was a resurgence as new people moved in, and when Mrs. McIntosh came in 1950 we had twelve members. Southland Executive visited us in 1952. In November, 1954, we provided a light luncheon when His Excellency The Governor General opened the new bridge at Hanging Rock. Since then our activities have been unspectacular, but we continue to co-operate with neighbouring branches, and with twenty-two members are stronger than ever.

## *Presidents :*

1934-37 Miss N. Maxwell  
1937-43 Mrs. F. Chapman  
1943-45 Mrs. LeCren  
1945-49 Miss Aitken  
1949-53 Mrs. A. D. Talbot  
1953 Mrs. A. Gould  
1954 Mrs. G. Harvey  
1955 Mrs. O. E. Parr  
1955-57 Mrs. L. G. Smillie

## *Secretaries :*

1934-37 Mrs. W. A. Arnold  
1937-40 Mrs. H. Taylor  
1940-49 Miss Maxwell

## *Treasurers :*

1937-41 Miss Dean  
1941 Mrs. H. Taylor  
1946-49 Mrs. H. Taylor  
1942-45 Miss Aitken  
1945 Mrs. Coles

1949-52 Miss J. Maxwell, Secretary-Treasurer  
1952-54 Mrs. O. E. Parr, Secretary-Treasurer  
1954-55 Mrs. A. Gould, Secretary-Treasurer  
1955-57 Mrs. O. R. Chapman, Secretary-Treasurer  
1957 Mrs. D. I. Chapman, Secretary-Treasurer

## Kingsdown

A GROUP OF LADIES of the district met early in August, 1934, and discussed the idea of forming a branch of the W.D.F.U. Those present were anxious that some ladies' organisation should be formed and it was decided that the Provincial President, Mrs. B. E. Evans, be asked to call a meeting. This meeting was held in the school on August 16, 1934, there being fifteen present. Owing to illness Mrs. Evans was unable to be present so Miss V. Kingston, Provincial Secretary, and Mrs. R. B. Hart, Advisory Member, attended and explained the aims and objects of the Division and the Housekeepers' scheme. It was then decided to form a branch of the W.D.F.U. in Kingsdown and the following officers were elected: *President*, Mrs. C. Daniel; *Secretary*, Miss E. Rooney; *Treasurer*, Mrs. Bartholomew; *Vice-Presidents*, Mesdames S. Cantwell and A. Henderson. Since then meetings have been held in the school on the second Wednesday of each month and members have a chance of meeting at our Division and many lasting friendships have been made in this way.

We have had a great variety of talks and demonstrations. During the war years our branch worked with the local Soldiers' Committee in the packing and posting of parcels and also raised funds for the Red Cross.

For a number of years our branch held an annual drama evening and members had a lot of enjoyment from presenting plays both in our own and other districts. Unfortunately owing to lack of young members we have had to abandon this interesting work.

Our annual flower show has become a popular event with the residents and school children as well as members.

Over the years many members have come to our district and of those who have left, some still write to say they remember happy days spent with our branch and we still have some of our first day members taking an active part in the work.

We are grateful to our Executive for their help and wish them all the success they deserve in the years to come.

The offices of Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers during the years have been held by Mesdames C. Daniel, J. Bartholomew, S. Cantwell, C. Hall, G. Porteous, E. H. Daniel, D. Loder, D. Gillespie, J. Lobb and J. Logan, Misses C. Simmons, E. Rooney, M. O'Connor, O. Hampton, E. Simmons, N. Campbell.

In December, 1956, the branch honoured the President, Miss E. Rooney, with life membership for her work for the W.D. During the twenty-two years she has held office continuously and has been President for nine years.



## Levels

IN OCTOBER, 1948, Mrs. J. O'Neill, who was the South Canterbury Provincial President at the time, called a meeting of the Women of the Levels District with the idea of forming a branch of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers. About five or six women of the district turned up at that meeting and a branch was formed. They decided to meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

In the election of officers, Mrs. E. Bennet was President, Mrs. J. Bell, Secretary, and Mrs. J. Hewitt, Treasurer. We met in the Levels Hall with about eight members for the first year. The second year brought a few more members to make a total of fifteen. The officers remained in the same positions. In 1950 Mrs. J. Bell resigned as Secretary and Mrs. O. B. Mills was second Secretary-Treasurer. The membership rose and fell as members came and left the district. In 1952 Mrs. Bennet resigned from the chair, Mrs. W. D. Orbell was elected President, Mrs. O. B. Mills remained Secretary-Treasurer and this combination stayed in office until Mrs. Mills left the district. Mrs. E. Bennet filled her position.

Our membership had grown considerably by this time and due to combined efforts we held shop days and sales tables which helped to increase our funds. We were then able to sponsor a Greek child and make larger donations to Headquarters.

In 1955 and 1956 Mrs. W. B. Cartwright was elected President. These were very successful years. Unfortunately we lost the use of the Levels Hall and met in members' homes but with twenty-nine members that became impossible. In February, 1956, we were permitted to use the Washdyke School which we find very comfortable and the young mothers are able to attend as our meetings are held in the evening. We hope in the not too distant future to build ourselves a comfortable meeting place with all modern conveniences. One enthusiastic husband has promised us fifty pounds when we start building. We feel we must get our bank balance up a little more, and that means more hard work.

At Christmas we have, in one member's beautiful garden, a party for the children. Each child gets a parcel, a balloon, and a bag of sweets.

## Lyalldale

FEELING THE NEED to foster help and social activities for the women on the land, Mrs. C. H. S. Johnston organised a meeting of women in the St. Andrew's district. The idea was accepted and those keenly interested in W.D.F.F. work formed a branch at Lyalldale. This was on September 15, 1950. Mrs. C. H. S.



Johnston was elected the first President, and she held that office for three successive years. She gave very freely of her time to the work, and our membership now stands at seventy members.

Much of the success of our branch, too, is due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. L. R. Bishop, who was the first Treasurer, and later Secretary-Treasurer.

Our branch has always contributed generously to its obligations, and our members who have needed help in their homes or a change at one of our Rest Homes have found that help has always been readily available.

Along with South Canterbury members, several of our members made a most enjoyable tour of Southland. It was our privilege to return the hospitality to the Southland members when they visited South Canterbury.

We are still a young branch and we feel there is much for us to do. In the years ahead we trust that our duties to the countrywomen and children will be faithfully fulfilled.

In 1953-54, Mrs. F. Caldwell took the Chair, with Mrs. C. Kennedy as Secretary. In May of that year Mrs. C. H. S. Johnston was farewelled and presented with a gift, and all members hoped she would enjoy her retirement in Timaru. For the next three years Mrs. C. Bulman was President, resigning as she was leaving the district, and since then the Vice-Presidents have taken the meetings.

During the last three years we have helped the Lyalldale Young Farmers to cater for their ploughing matches. Also we have held shop days which have proved successful. Each year one of our members has attended Conference. The membership is not quite as high now as when we started, but our meetings are always very enjoyable.

<i>Year :</i>	<i>President :</i>	<i>Secretary :</i>
1950-51	Mrs. C. H. S. Johnston	Mrs. L. R. Bishop
1951-52	Mrs. C. H. S. Johnston	Mrs. L. R. Bishop
1952-53	Mrs. C. H. S. Johnston	Mrs. L. R. Bishop
1953-54	Mrs. F. Caldwell	Mrs. C. Kennedy
1954-55	Mrs. C. R. Bulman	Mrs. J. Shirtcliff
1955-56	Mrs. C. R. Bulman	Miss D. Johnson
1956-57	Mesdames E. Offen and P. Preston	Mrs. C. R. McKeown

## Maungati

ON SATURDAY, September 8, 1933, a meeting convened by Mrs. B. E. Evans and Mrs. Herbert Elworthy in the Timaunga School was attended by twenty women of the district. A branch of the Women's Division was formed in Maungati, Mrs. H. Elworthy being appointed the first President, and Mesdames Stewart and Ford, Vice-Presidents. Mrs. W. McDonald was the first Secretary, Mrs. Greig, Treasurer, and Mrs. J. Smith filled the position of Housekeeping Advisory Member.

Mrs. Elworthy made gifts of china for afternoon teas and books as a nucleus for a library, Miss Betty Smith being appointed librarian. Mr. R. W. Dale made a cupboard to contain the property of the branch. Great enthusiasm was manifested by all members; the monthly competitions being keenly contested; Roll Calls, demonstrations, talks and plays, all contributing to the success of meetings. On many occasions when 'Craigmores' was in 'all its glory' of flower and blossom, garden parties were held there at the gracious invitation of Mrs. Elworthy.

During the war, a home-nursing class was formed under the excellent tuition of Mrs. Blair, later merging into a branch of the Red Cross Society. Parcels were sent to England and cakes sent monthly to the local boys serving overseas.

'Lest we forget', three trees were planted, one in memory of each of the fine young men who gave their lives in the Second World War; Mrs. B. E. Evans paying tribute to those boys who did not return.

Near the Timaunga School on a triangular acre of ground grew tussock and matagouri, but willing hands of W.D. members have now made this wilderness a scene of tranquil beauty.

The success of our first Flower Show in 1948, made this an annual event and in 1952 we introduced a Rose Show. Mrs. R. W. Dale presented a challenge cup in memory of her son Selwyn, for highest aggregate and Mrs. Evans gave the 'Janet Evans' cup for most points in the children's section. A challenge Rose Bowl for the premier bloom was donated by Mr. A. J. Davey, M.P. for Waimate, in 1955.

Our branch supports the appeals of the S.P.C.A., Leper Fund, Crippled Children's Society, besides making annual donations to Community Chest, Stratheona, Te Kiteroa and the Housekeeping Fund.

There are now few remaining of those who attended the first meeting twenty-four years ago and we would here pay a tribute

to Mrs. Greig (first Treasurer) and to Mrs. J. Smith (first Advisory Member), who have passed on; they served their W.D. and generation well.

Many members and ex-members attended the celebration of our Twenty-first Birthday in 1954, when Mrs. G. Reid, our President, made a gift of a silver bell inscribed with the names of former Branch Presidents — Mesdames H. Elworthy, J. Ford, I. K. Stewart, R. W. Dale, W. McDonald, T. L. Dale, K. Hawkins and G. Reid. Mrs. Reid also gave a cloth she had worked in the design of cabbage trees near a hill, depicting the meaning of the Maori word 'Ti Maunga.'

In 1954 also, the honour of Branch Life Membership was conferred on Mrs. R. W. Dale, a foundation member and devoted worker.

Our meetings continue to be well attended and full of interest and Mrs. Reid is worthy of the greatest credit as President for her untiring efforts on our behalf.

## Ma Waro

THE FIRST MEETING was held on March 28, 1936, in the MonaVale Schoolroom, with the object of forming a branch of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union. Mrs. B. E. Evans, Provincial President, outlined the various activities of the organisation: The Bush Nurse, The Housekeeper, the Marketing Scheme, The Visiting Dressmaker, Field Days, and Country Girls' Educational Week. On a motion being put to the meeting it was proposed by Mrs. Naughton and seconded by Mrs. L. Connelly that a branch be formed. The following officers were appointed:—

*President*: Mrs. L. Connelly. *Vice-President*: Mrs. R. Davison.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Knubley. *Treasurer*: Mrs. Naughton.

*Committee*: Mesdames Struthers, Sullivan, F. Davison, Barry, Leslie and Miss Waters.

*Members*: Mesdames Struthers, Connelly, Leslie, Knubley, Jackson, F. Davison, R. Davison, Waters, Rapsey, Naughton, Barry, Sullivan, Misses J. Struthers, J. Barry, B. Barry, Riley, N. Naughton, G. Hogg, J. Hogg and G. Waters.

It was decided to hold the meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at 2 o'clock.

During the war years socials were held to raise funds for sending parcels to five boys from the Ma Waro district and members made garments for Red Cross, mostly clothing for children.

Many foundation members have left the district but the W.D.F.F. still goes on having enjoyable meetings, useful demonstrations and invitations to neighbouring W.D.F.F. birthday parties. The Ma Waro W.D.F.F. still hold their meetings on the last Wednesday of the month in the MonaVale School.

Officers and members for 1957 were as follows :—

*President* : Mrs. F. Jackson. *Vice-President* : Mrs. S. King.

*Secretary* : Mrs. N. Wreford. *Treasurer* : Mrs. Pye.

*Members* : Mesdames Jackson, King, Wreford, Pye, Rogers, Connelly Jnr., Radburn, Davison Jnr., Winter, Stevens, Quigley, Chisholm and Leslie.

## Orari Bridge

ORARI BRIDGE BRANCH is one of the early branches of the W.D.F.F. in South Canterbury. It was formed by Mrs. Oliver ; Mrs. Evans also taking special interest in its formation. Mrs. Morris was elected first President, with Mrs. J. Waller as Secretary-Treasurer. Membership was twenty-eight in its first year, 1931.

Over the years the Division has played a big part in the social life of the district, and wherever possible assistance has been given to those in need. Many young mothers have had the assistance of the W.D. Housekeeper. Classes held by the W.D. for dressmaking, etc., have been well attended. During World War II members formed themselves into an energetic Red Cross band. Owing to petrol shortage, meetings were held after W.D. meetings thus saving valuable time. Many were the knitted comforts, pyjamas and dressing gowns sent to the depot in Geraldine by Orari Bridge members. Boys overseas also received regular parcels and comforts. Some who returned to the district still take an interest in our work through their wives who are members.

Last year saw the Silver Jubilee of our W.D. which was really a highlight. A willing band of helpers under the leadership of Mrs. Mackenzie (President) arranged an afternoon entertainment for older members and visitors finishing with a Grand Ball in the evening. Members chose a sprig of kowhai as their emblem to mark the event, six kowhais being planted in the Hall grounds as a commemoration. Opportunity was taken on this occasion to honour Mrs. H. Coulter with Life Membership. Not only had she been a foundation member, but had remained an active member holding



all offices at various times over the years. Another Life Member is Mrs. B. Quigley who held the office of Secretary for a period of twenty years. Truly a record.

Of latter years the care of the aged has come under the scope of Division work. Our branch members take turns in making biscuits for those who are unable to do for themselves. This is much appreciated by elderly folk who do like something home-made.

*Office-bearers* : Presidents — Mesdames W. Morris, F. South, J. Reid, H. Coulter, C. Burdon, P. Scott, G. Craib and Mrs. H. Mackenzie who holds the office at present.

Secretaries — Mesdames J. Waller and W. Inglis, Miss P. Pratt, Mrs. J. Quigley, Mrs. J. Reid, Miss H. Bruce and Mrs. A. South (present Secretary).

Treasurers — Mesdames J. Quigley and Mrs. J. Reid, Miss M. Pratt, Mesdames R. A. South, P. Scott, H. Coulter, M. Hampton, G. Craib, L. Coulter and H. Mackenzie. Mrs. G. Craib is the present treasurer.

## Otaio

THE OTAIO BRANCH was formed in May, 1935, at a meeting held at the residence of Mrs. H. B. S. Johnstone, and under the guidance of Mrs. B. E. Evans. Outstanding service was given by Mrs. H. B. S. Johnstone who was President for nearly eleven years and only resigned when forced to do so when faced with ill health. Her daughter, Miss J. Johnstone (now Mrs. J. Studholme), was first Secretary, followed by Miss Mavis Hall.

During the war years and ever since, meetings have been held in conjunction with the local Red Cross. The work during the war years consisted mainly of Red Cross and Lady Galway Guild work. Since 1937, yearly gift parcels have been sent to the Makogai lepers. Also during the war, parcels of food and clothing were sent to local soldiers serving overseas. Three years ago the branch sponsored an English boy through the 'Save the Children Fund,' and besides the annual monetary grant, parcels of food and clothing have been sent regularly to this boy, who, along with his mother, write most gratefully. Members have contributed peggy squares regularly and these have been made into two lovely quilts to send overseas.

Members have maintained a keen interest in Stratheona, perhaps more so since a visit was made in 1956 to the Hostel.

In 1946 membership had reached such a low figure that a discussion was held on the subject of whether it was practicable to continue as a branch. However, it was decided to do so, and

a drive was made for new members. We now have a membership of thirty-three senior and three junior members.

For the past five years the branch has held an autumn flower show as its chief means of raising funds, and these are proving more successful each year. The branch has helped with the furnishing of the recently opened Community Centre where the monthly meetings are now held.

In 1956 the branch celebrated its twenty-first birthday by holding a reunion party with Mrs. Evans and past and present members attending.

It is with sadness we record the passing of Mrs. E. Dix, who was a true and faithful W.D. member in the truest sense.

*Presidents* since the resignation of Mrs. Johnstone have been : Mrs. Bowie, Miss S. Forrest, Miss M. Brunton, Mrs. H. Cain and Mrs. L. Sargent.

*Secretaries* since Miss Johnstone : Miss M. Hall, Mrs. G. Hall, Mrs. Ellis, Miss Murray, Mrs. Bowie and Mrs. S. Smith who has held this office since 1947.

*Foundation Members* : Mrs. H. B. S. Johnstone, Miss M. Hall, Mrs. G. Hall, Miss J. Johnstone, Miss M. Brunton, Mrs. Forrest, Miss Forrest, Mrs. F. Martin, Miss E. Martin, Mrs. Childs, Mrs. E. Dix, Mrs. East and Mrs. Aythorne.

## Pleasant Point

ON NOVEMBER 6, 1931, a meeting was held in the Town Hall and a new branch of the W.D.F.U. was formed. Mrs. B. E. Evans, then President of the Timaru Branch, was present and addressed the meeting, and so under her guidance the Branch was formed ; as were many others at that time.

The late Mrs. E. Ley was elected President, an office which she held for four years, and many of the early members will remember her sterling work for the branch. The first Secretary was Mrs. Gordon Campbell, while Miss A. Maze was Treasurer.

The minutes of that first meeting also tell us that the inaugural committee were as follows : Mesdames Murphy, C. C. Chapman, Jackson, J. Davison, Stevens, Lyon, Gardiner, Crombie and Kingston.

The membership of this branch has fluctuated somewhat throughout its twenty-three years, but would average about forty. Attendance at meetings has been good on the whole, and keen interest has been taken in the work by members, except for a very disheartening period during the war years. Shortage of petrol plus a keen interest being taken in wartime activities caused so serious a drop in attendance that for a time it was feared the branch must go into recess.

At one annual meeting the attendance was four — the President,

Secretary and two others. However, by arranging for bi-monthly meetings, and by striving in many ways to keep interest alive the small committee contrived to hold the branch together till better days.

At the present time, twenty-five years after its foundation, the branch is struggling to keep the interest of its members. With the many diverging interests of a country township, such as Red Cross, Church Guilds, C.W.I., etc., and the ease of transport to the city for various entertainments, the W.D.F.F. seems to be striving against heavy odds. Attendance at meetings is composed largely of women of the township, and this state of affairs is to be deplored; for it seems as though the country women have no further need of their W.D.

The chief of the branch's activities at present are the case of the sponsored Greek boy and the providing of meals, at intervals throughout the year, at the local saleyards, which helps to keep the work on a good financial basis.

It is felt that the history of the Pleasant Point W.D.F.F. would not be complete without making mention of the help and support given during the early years by Mr. A. B. Struthers. For many years it was the custom to hold meetings in conjunction with the Farmers' Union, and Mr. Struthers, who was secretary of that body, was always willing and happy to give us much needed advice and support.

The following is a list of the Presidents who have held office over the twenty-three years of the branch's existence :—

1931-35 Mrs. E. Ley	1942-46 Mrs. P. D. Roberts
1935-37 Miss A. E. Oliver	1946-50 Mrs. R. Crombie
1937-38 Mrs. R. Crombie	1950-54 Mrs. P. D. Roberts
1938-40 Mrs. P. D. Roberts	1954-57 Mrs. J. McLean
1940-42 Mrs. Jackson	1957- Mrs. T. C. Clarkson

## Skipton

AT A MEETING convened by Mrs. O. G. Parr in the Skipton School on October 20, 1938, it was unanimously agreed to form a branch of the Women's Division, this being the nineteenth in South Canterbury.

Mrs. W. Buchan, Provincial President and Organiser, presided, and there were present Mrs. G. H. Paton and members of the Fairlie Branch. Officers elected were: Mrs. O. G. Parr, President; Mrs. Bruce, Vice-President; Miss I. Gudex, Secretary; Miss Maxwell,



Treasurer. Membership, which commenced with eight, doubled within the first year and reached twenty-two at one stage, being sixteen at present.

During the war years, war work became the primary interest of the branch, but in spite of the shortage of petrol and the scattered nature of the district, members also did their part in the general work of the organisation.

The Skipton W.D. contributed to the social life of the area and received whole-hearted support as will be seen from the figure of £11, the proceeds of a Euchre Evening for the Million Pounds Appeal. Funds to provide monthly parcels for soldiers were obtained from sales tables at each meeting and by other efforts such as Shop Days. Substantial donations were made to the support of Te Kiteroa, Scotlands, Stratheona, Community Chest, Lady Galway Guild and C.O.R.S.O.

Meetings have always been varied and interesting; on occasion arranged and run by the Junior members. The seventh birthday of the Branch was celebrated by holding a most entertaining mock radio programme including piano and vocal solos, school choir items, a quizz and a commentary on an imaginary local race meeting.

Members have attended a Country Women's Week in Timaru and Field Days at Lincoln Agricultural College. A remit which was carried at Dominion Conference, reads: 'That in view of the difficulty of arranging board for sole teachers in small country districts, the Government be asked to provide movable caravans equipped with sleeping accommodation and cooking facilities, parents within reasonable distance of the school to supply one hot meal a day for the teacher.'

On their birthdays, members receive a small gift, their names being recorded in a Birthday Book, the gift of Mrs. Smith.

On leaving the district which she had so loyally served for many years, to show their appreciation of her twelve terms as President, the Skipton Branch members made a presentation to Mrs. Parr and honoured her with Life Membership.

*Presidents :*

1938-43	Mrs. O. G. Parr	1943	Mrs. Bruce
1944	Mrs. O. G. Parr	1945	Miss I. Gudex
1946	Mrs. O. G. Parr	1947-50	Mrs. Hunter
1950	Mrs. O. G. Parr	1951	Mrs. K. Macfarlane
1952-56	Mrs. O. G. Parr	1956-	Mrs. Maxwell



*Secretaries :*

1938-40	Miss I. Gudex
1944	Miss I. Gudex
1940-42	Miss L. Maxwell
1943	Miss L. Maxwell
1942	Mrs. F. Hunter
1945	Miss G. Parr
1946-48	Mrs. A. McHaffie
1948	Miss V. Scarlett
1949	Mrs. D. Linton (nee Gudex)
1951-55	Mrs. D. Linton
1957-	Mrs. D. Linton
1950	Miss J. Maxwell
1955-57	Mrs. Isitt

*Treasurers :*

1938-40	Miss L. Maxwell
1942	Miss L. Maxwell
1950	Miss L. Maxwell
1940-42	Mrs. J. Scarlett
1943	Mrs. J. Scarlett
1944-46	Mrs. J. Linton
1948-50	Mrs. B. Scarlett (nee Linton)
1951	Mrs. Johnston
1952	Mrs. D. Scarlett
1953	Mrs. O. G. Parr
1954-	Mrs. Pagan

## Southburn

KNOWN TO SOUTHBURN W.D. as the 'Mother' of our branch, Mrs. B. E. Evans, as Provincial President twenty-two years ago, presided and formed a branch in our district. Twelve members enrolled at the formation while today we have a membership of thirty-eight seniors and three juniors. Still with us is our first President, Mrs. F. Ward. She has an outstanding record of twenty-two years faithful service, and throughout those years has held many offices. She had the honour of Executive Life Membership conferred on her five years ago.

Cherished possessions of our W.D. are a beautiful handworked banner and supper cloth, both of these being made by a member, Mrs. K. Bishop. Worthy of mention, too, is the silver cup donated by Mrs. Evans for competition and known as the 'Janet Evans' Cup.

Taking the form of a social afternoon, our twenty-first anniversary celebrations were most successful. Recalling early days were seven foundation members including Mrs. Ward (President), Mrs. Forbes (Secretary) and founder, Mrs. Evans. Presented to the branch on this occasion was an Honours Book in which will be recorded the names of those members who have given long and faithful service.

Held in December, 1956, our first Christmas party was an outstanding success. Gifts were distributed by Father Christmas to ninety-six children. These gifts were all given by members.

Keeping the garden surrounding the War Memorial is one of our main interests. Four members lost sons during the war.

The Red Cross, too, has our full support and periodically we make biscuits for distribution to nearby institutions. Ever mindful of our duties and obligations, our one aim is 'Service.'

Success has been with us and as we reach our twenty-fourth year we pay a tribute to those members who laid the foundations of our Southburn W.D.

#### *Presidents :*

1934-36 Mrs. F. Ward	1940-42 Mrs. P. Murray
1944-46 Mrs. F. Ward	1942-44 Mrs. Robert Parry
1950-52 Mrs. F. Ward	1946-48 Mrs. T. Harrison
1937 Mrs. F. Turner	1948-50 Mrs. J. Watt
1938-40 Mrs. M. Chamberlain	1952- Mrs. R. S. J. Hill

#### *Secretaries :*

1934	Mrs. Armstrong
1935	Mrs. Chamberlain
1936-38	Miss A. Parry
1938	Mrs. F. Ward
1940-44	Miss M. Ward
1944	Mrs. Cochrane
1946	Mrs. McGill
1955	Mrs. J. Watt
1939	Mrs. Robert Parry
1945	Mrs. Robert Parry
1946-51	Mrs. Robert Parry
1951-	Mrs. Rupert Parry

#### *Treasurers :*

1934-36	Mrs. Armstrong
1936-39	Miss Evans
1939-42	Mrs. A. Ward
1942-45	Mrs. C. Watt
1945	Mrs. Brunton
1946-49	Miss R. Murray
1949	Mrs. Ward
1950-52	Miss M. Caird
1952-55	Mrs. A. Strachan
1955-	Mrs I. Murray

## Sutherlands

ON MAY, 23, 1950, ten women of the Sutherlands district met in the Hall, previously the Sutherlands School, to form a branch of the W.D.F.F. Now seven years old we have a membership of twenty-four members. We feel that the W.D. has contributed much to this little district, bringing about a revival of social life.

Our activities are many and varied. Each birthday we arrange a trip to places of interest. In December of each year we have had a children's party inviting mothers and children of the district. Owing to numbers having increased so much we held a picture party instead this year.

Each meeting we usually have an interesting talk or demonstration, sometimes by our own members. Twice we have run an arts and

crafts one-day school, inviting neighbouring branches. This proved a great success.

A look at our competition tables shows the interest taken by members, especially in the blooms section.

Our finances have always been quite satisfactory. A little low perhaps at times. A flower show one year netted us enough profit to buy a much needed urn for our meetings.

A successful shop day proved a great help especially for our Dominion financial responsibilities and our donations to Stratheona; also to send a delegate to Conference.

Over the years we have learnt a lot mainly perhaps to help one another, and in the words of our Creed 'May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.'

I'm sure with the band of enthusiastic members that we have we will succeed and do our duty well.

<i>Presidents :</i>	<i>Secretaries :</i>	<i>Treasurers :</i>
Mrs. S. Cleland	Mrs. K. Clarke	Mrs. Gray
Mrs. I. M. Brown	Mrs. V. Grant	Mrs. S. Orr
Mrs. W. Esler	Mrs. K. Hammond	Mrs. F. Hunter
Mrs. E. W. Ryan		

## Te Moana - Four Peaks

THE TE MOANA-FOUR PEAKS BRANCH of the W.D.F.F. held its first meeting in April, 1952. Membership has increased over the years and there are now twenty-four members.

Office-bearers for 1952-1953 : *President* : Mrs. A. B. Curtis ; *Secretary* : Mrs. A. Quantock ; *Treasurer* : Mrs. F. C. Burrowes.

Office-bearers for 1954-1955 : *President* : Mrs. C. W. Lynn ; *Secretary* : Mrs. F. C. Burrowes ; *Treasurer* : Mrs. A. Benbow.

Office-bearers for 1956 : *President* : Mrs. G. H. Worner ; *Secretary* : Mrs. B. J. Wood ; *Treasurer* : Mrs. A. Quantock.

During 1955-1956 the branch sponsored an Italian child, Anna Maria Raschetti. Monthly letters were written to the child and parcels of clothing and gifts sent at regular intervals. Members learned with regret of the death of this child in 1956 and are prepared to sponsor another child, preferably one of the same family.

Parcels of clothing have been sent to C.O.R.S.O. from time to time; also to needy people in Europe. Donations have been sent to : Community Chest, S.C. Executive, Stratheona, Save the



Children Fund, Fund for the Blind, The Leper Fund, C.O.R.S.O., Red Cross, Housekeeping Fund and the fund for redecorating a room at Te Kiteroa.

Magazines, children's feeders, etc., have been sent to hospitals; biscuits to the mental hospital; vegetables, jam and fruit to the Good Neighbour Service in Christchurch.

Money for child sponsoring, donations, etc., has been raised by having sales tables, holding euchre parties, and catering for Gun Club meetings.

A birthday party is held during the winter and a garden party or picnic in the summer. Members and others in the district who are sick receive letters and flowers and are visited by branch members.

With the help of Adult Education teachers, musical evenings with harpsichord, piano and radiogram have been much enjoyed; also poetry readings and the showing of travel films.

The branch is in a healthy financial position. Attendance at meetings is excellent and members look forward with confidence to a progressive future.

## Temuka

IN JULY, 1930, the President of the Temuka Branch of the Farmers' Union (Mr. A. J. Davey) convened a meeting of farmers' wives with a view to forming a branch of the Women's Division, a new organisation which was then still in its infancy. A number of women responded to the invitation, among them Mrs. J. O. J. Oliver who was already a member of the Timaru Branch. As a result of this meeting a branch was duly formed with Mrs. J. McCormick as President and Mrs. Peter Macaulay as Secretary-Treasurer, and a membership of thirteen.

As the years passed the membership steadily increased until in 1947 it had reached a peak of eighty-two. During the last two years the branch has sustained several losses through death and removals from the district with the result that last year it had only sixty-four members. There are ample signs, however, that there will be a gain in the present year. From the time of its inception the branch has been zealous in trying to carry out the chief object of the organisation: 'To help the women and children on the land.' It has felt that the W.D.F.F. has a specific mission for a specific purpose; it is not a promiscuous charitable organisation, open to appeals from any and every quarter. By its meetings it promotes friendliness and good neighbour feeling among farm women

over a wide area, and this is an important contribution to the happiness of the farming community. By its housekeeping and associated schemes it endeavours to assist country women who are in need of help.

The branch has been well served through the years by a fine band of officers, and always there has been a sound core of able and willing helpers to assist in any of its projects. Through the war members assisted in all kinds of patriotic work, and the branch has endeavoured by every means in its power to foster good relations with the local branch of Federated Farmers and with the Young Farmers' Clubs.

Two of its Presidents, Mrs. W. Buchan and Mrs. G. A. Davey, have served in a wider sphere as President of the South Canterbury Executive, and Mrs. G. A. Davey was for two years a member of the Dominion Advisory Board. The Branch owes much to Mrs. W. Buchan who held the office of President for eight years, while Mrs. G. A. Davey is now in her eleventh year as President.

Among the many loyal and untiring workers it is perhaps invidious to single out individuals but mention must be made of Mrs. W. H. Davey, a foundation member, who gave valuable and efficient service for fifteen years as Treasurer, and who in addition has always given yeoman service in other ways, especially with regard to catering. And mention must also be made of Mrs. J. N. Taylor, the first Housekeeping Secretary and the present Secretary, who has been a tower of strength through the years.

#### *Presidents :*

1930-1931 Mrs. J. McCormick	1941-1942 Mrs. W. Buchan
1932-1937 Mrs. W. Buchan	1942-1954 Mrs. G. A. Davey
1938-1939 Mrs L. J. Wareing	1954-present Mrs. A. D. Tooley
1940- Mrs. R. Barnett	

*Secretaries :* Mrs. P. Macaulay, Mrs. F. Smith, Miss N. King, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. R. Barnett, Mrs. G. A. Davey, Miss V. Davey, Miss Margaret Cairns, Mrs. J. N. Taylor.

*Treasurers :* Miss N. King, Mrs. McPhail, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. W. H. Davey, Mrs. A. Dippie.

*Housekeeping Secretaries :* Mrs. J. N. Taylor, Mrs. H. Sewell, Mrs. L. J. Wareing, Mrs. D. Kennedy.

*Life Members :* Mesdames W. H. Davey, G. A. Davey.

In conjunction with Clandeboye Branch the Temuka Branch sponsors an Italian child.



**MRS. W. WATSON**  
Geraldine President, 1937-40



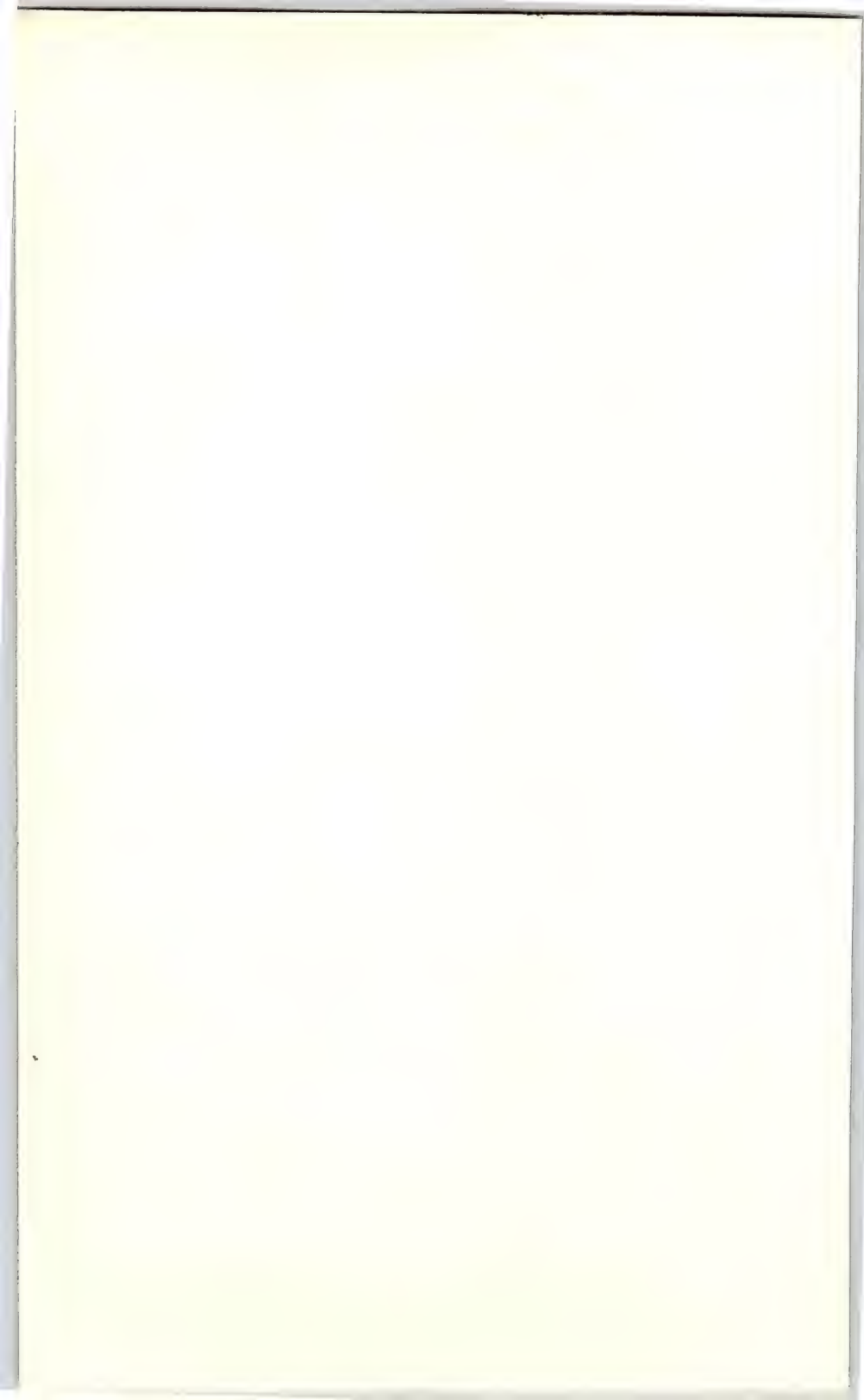
**MRS. C. M. BURDON**  
Past President, Geraldine Branch  
(1932-35) (1936-37)



**MRS. C. BEAVEN**  
Past President, 1954-55, Geraldine Branch



**MRS. R. A. DIXON**  
Geraldine Branch Secretary  
1932 to 1941





## Timaru

THE TIMARU BRANCH of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union — at first called 'South Canterbury Branch' — was formed on December 6, 1929. A letter had been received by the Secretary of the Farmers Union stating that Mrs. C. C. Jackson, Dominion President, wished to visit South Canterbury for the purpose of forming a branch of the 'Women's Division.'

Mr. P. R. Talbot, then Chairman of the local Branch of the Farmers' Union, presided and formally introduced Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson told the meeting that the aims of the 'Division' were to help the women and children on the land and it was the only organisation that did these things. The 'Division' had at that time been going for about five years, starting in Wellington with fifteen members, one of whom was Mrs. P. R. Talbot. The greatest need said Mrs. Jackson had been for reliable help in time of sickness and nursing service. At that time eighty-five branches had been formed which, said Mrs. Jackson, augured well for the future of the organisation, and for help in country homes.

The meeting signified its intention of forming a branch and the following officers were elected :—

*President* : Mrs. P. R. Talbot.

*Secretary-Treasurer* : Mrs. B. E. Evans.

*Vice-Presidents* : Mrs. J. Clelland, Timaru ; Mrs. Ladbrook, Geraldine.

*Committee* : Mesdames B. Gillies, A. Ward, Miles, Smart, J. J. Oliver, W. J. Black, Brown, Lysaght, and Misses Smart and Brown.

Unfortunately Mrs. Talbot resigned at the end of three months and Mrs. J. J. Oliver was appointed President, which position she held for one year, after which Mrs. B. E. Evans took her place. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Clelland and afterwards at the Boardroom of the C.F.C.A. and later in the Y.W.C.A., Church Street, Timaru, at 2 p.m., on the third Friday of the month. Each member in turn paid the hire of the room.

As only Mrs. Bruce Gillies knew anything at all about this new society — having toured parts of the North Island with her husband who was a Farmers' Union Organiser — we looked to her for help. It was Mrs. Gillies who told us of the Creed and the Badge and also how to go about employing housekeepers.

We had no money and our first financial enterprise was a sales table in June at which we made £2 10s. 6d. Sixpence was paid out of this for the use of crockery.

During early autumn a very successful picnic was held in conjunction with the Farmers' Union at the Timaru Gardens. In

those days we really felt that we were part of the men's organisation. Members from Pleasant Point, Timaru, Temuka and Geraldine were asked to attend.

Our next big effort to raise money was a 'Stall' at the A. and P. Show and the sum of £18 4s. was collected. This effort was continued each year until two years ago when it was decided to hold a Shop Day at the R.S.A. Rooms. By this time our membership was growing by leaps and bounds (116) and the sum of ten pounds was our first contribution to Community Chest Funds.

Each December we were invited to inspect the work of the Technical School pupils and were given a special afternoon tea.

We sent £13 to the Napier Earthquake Fund and boxes of clothes and food. Seventeen pounds was taken at a concert held in Otupua Hall.

Mesdames Bruce Gillies, B. Kelland and R. B. Hart acted as advisory members for Housekeeping at different stages. At one time we had seven housekeepers employed. Mrs. Nicol did wonderful work during the time she was Housekeeping Secretary in those early days.

Temuka, Geraldine and Orari Bridge Branches were formed by Mrs. Oliver.

*President :*

*Secretary and Treasurer :*

1929 to 1930	Mrs. P. R. Talbot	Mrs. B. E. Evans
(Dec. 6 to March 21)		
1930 to 1931	Mrs. J. O. J. Oliver	Mrs. B. E. Evans
1931 to 1937	Mrs. B. E. Evans	Miss Smith and Miss Moyle
1938 to 1939	Mrs. L. Bell	Miss Moyle
1940 to 1942	Miss E. Cargill	Miss Moyle
1943 to 1946	Mrs. Diana Ross	Mrs. Willcocks and Mrs. Clarke
1947 to 1948	Mrs. Moran	Mrs. Willcocks and Mrs. Clarke
1949 to 1950	Mrs. B. E. Evans	Mrs. Willcocks and Mrs. Knott
1951 to 1957	Mrs. Willcocks	Mrs. Blackwood and Mrs. Knott
		Mrs. Crampton and Mrs. Robbie

## Waimate

ON THE DAY IN 1931 when the Waimate Branch was formed, eighteen country women heard Mrs. B. E. Evans (Pareora Gorge) and Mrs. Percy Talbot (Timaru) describe the aims and objects of the W.D.F.U., and these eighteen were enrolled as the foundation members of the branch which today has 116 members. For many years meetings

were held in the Borough Council Chambers; then as members increased, in the County Council Chambers and for the past three years in the Fire Brigade Hall.

Since its inception the branch has endeavoured to keep the W.D.F.F. ideals of loving service to countrywomen, and particularly the provision of emergency housekeepers, in the heart of its work. Donations to Community Chest and other W.D.F.F. projects have always been generous, while worthy outside appeals such as the Blind Institute and the Leper Trust are well supported, and in addition the branch has adopted a child under the 'Save the Children' scheme. During and after World War II, 1100 parcels were sent to Britain. Today the branch is sharing in the entertainment of the Senior Citizens.

Particular mention should be made of the foresight of the branch in recommending the purchase of Te Kiteroa as a Rest Home for the Division, and of the 'establishing work' there which was so willingly performed by branch members. The branch has shown continuing practical interest over the years in Te Kiteroa, and also in the Division Training Hostel, Stratheona, at Pleasant Point.

Lectures, travel talks and demonstrations have provided a much appreciated educational side to the work of the branch, while the social side is well maintained.

The Twenty-first Anniversary function, presided over by the President, Mrs. G. T. Hennessy, M.B.E., and the twenty-fifth birthday party, under Mrs. A. J. McRae's leadership, fittingly celebrated these important milestones in the branch's history. May the branch play its part well in the service of countrywomen in the years that lie ahead.

#### *W.D.F.F. and Other Honours :*

Mrs. J. C. Hay (first President) honoured with Branch Life Membership at the Silver Jubilee function in 1956.

Mrs. George Dash, Mrs. W. Boland, M.B.E., and Mrs. A. J. McRae have occupied the position of Mayoress through virtue of their respective husbands holding office as Mayor of Waimate.

Mrs. L. M. Gibson acted as South Canterbury Provincial W.D.F.F. Housekeeping Secretary.

Mrs. G. T. Hennessy, A.R.R.C., honoured with the M.B.E. for her Red Cross work, Vice-President of the South Canterbury Provincial W.D.F.F.

Mrs. James Holmes, J.P., member of Waimate Hospital Committee; member of Dominion Council W.D.F.F., and President of South Canterbury Provincial W.D.F.F.

The following members have served as members of the Te Kiteroa Committee : Mesdames F. G. McRae, A. C. Blaikie, W. L. Hay, J. C. Faulkner, J. Holmes, A. J. McRae, while Miss E. Bitchener has acted as recording secretary.

Mrs. B. Richardson served on the Stratheona Committee before, and Mrs. J. Holmes after its acquisition as a trust by the W.D.F.F.

#### *Presidents :*

1931	Mrs. J. C. Hay	1941-43	Mrs. J. C. Faulkner
1932	Mrs. F. J. Meyer	1944	Mrs. J. C. Faulkner
1934-36	Mrs. F. J. Meyer	1950	Mrs. J. C. Faulkner
1933	Mrs. F. F. Simpson	1945	Mrs. J. C. Hay
1936	Mrs. A. C. Blaikie	1946-48	Mrs. J. Holmes
1937	Miss J. Barnett	1948-50	Miss B. Bitchener
1938	Mrs. F. G. McRae	1951	Mrs. W. Elliot
1943	Mrs. F. G. McRae	1952-55	Mrs. G.T. Hennessy, M.B.E.
1940	Mrs. M. L. Preece		
1939	Mrs. J. C. Faulkner	1955	Mrs. A. J. McRae

#### *Secretaries :*

1931	Mrs. E. G. Hay
1932-34	Miss E. Bitchener
1937-41	Miss E. Bitchener
1934-36	Miss B. Bitchener
1936	Mrs. F. F. Simpson
1941-44	Mrs. A. C. Blaikie
1944-46	Mrs. J. G. D. Willcocks
1946-48	Mesdames E. G. Hay and E. Meredith
1948-52	Mrs. E. G. Hay
1952-54	Mesdames E. G. Hay and W. Lindsay
1954-57	Mrs. L. M. Gibson

#### *Treasurers :*

1931	Mrs. E. G. Hay
1932-34	Miss E. Bitchener
1936	Miss E. Bitchener
1934-36	Miss B. Bitchener
1937	Mrs. M. L. Preece
1938-41	Mrs. A. C. Blaikie
1941-48	Mrs. W. L. Hay
1948-57	Mrs. G. B. Richardson

## Waimate Evening

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP of Mrs. J. Holmes, the South Canterbury Provincial Executive President, a new branch was formed in Waimate to cater for those unable to attend the Afternoon Branch. The members are either those whose husbands attend the Federated



Farmers' meetings the same evening, or those who have young children who cannot be left in the afternoon. Membership is around the fifty mark.

The meetings, which are well attended, are mostly social in character and have gone from strength to strength. We carry on the usual W.D. activities such as demonstrations and guest speakers at each meeting, but stress the social side as a means of relaxation for the young mothers.

The branch has had visits from women of an American farmers' touring team, as well as an Australian girl who was the guest of the Country Girls' Club. It has also given hospitality to several parties of W.D. members touring the South Island.

Members take a keen interest in our local Rest Home, 'Te Kiteroa,' where with South Canterbury members we have adopted a room. We were privileged to have Sir Willoughby and Lady Norrie to visit 'Te Kiteroa.'

We marked the occasion of the Centenary of Waimate by entering a float in the procession, as well as by helping in other ways.

A recent and successful venture has been a combined meeting with the Waimate Federated Farmers, which was enjoyed by all.

We are sponsoring an Italian child through the 'Save the Children Fund,' and get a very liberal support from all our members of both time and money to any worthy cause; such as the entertainment of the Senior Citizens' Association.

We usually send a delegate to the Dominion Conference and to keep our finances in a healthy state for this purpose we run a Shop Day.

In this our seventh year, we feel we are fulfilling the aims and objects of the organisation; that the bonds of friendship are strengthened, and the lives of members enriched by the cheery and helpful atmosphere which prevails at all our meetings.

<i>Year :</i>	<i>Presidents :</i>	<i>Secretaries :</i>
1951-52	Miss E. M. Hurst	Mrs. W. J. Powell
1952-53	Miss C. Bell	Mrs. W. J. Powell
1953-54	Mrs. J. L. Morrison	Mrs. W. J. Powell
1954-55	Mrs. J. L. Morrison	Mrs. M. Pearse
1955-56	Mrs. H. Morland	Mrs. M. Pearse
1956-57	Mrs. F. Gluyas	Mrs. S. J. Wilson

## Waituna

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the Waituna Branch was held in the Waituna School on November 14, 1950, when about eighteen country women met. Mrs. J. Holmes also attended this meeting and gave a talk outlining the aims and objects of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers. Owing to the scattered nature of the district, membership has not greatly increased; there being at the present twenty-three financial members.

In our first year we were fortunate in having two of our members included in the party of South Canterbury members that travelled to Southland to be the guests of that Provincial.

To celebrate the fifth birthday we diverged from the usual type of function and held a most enjoyable Garden Party, and then the sixth birthday was held in the lovely grounds of Te Kiteroa.

Our meetings are well attended and at each meeting we endeavour to have travel talks and demonstrations covering a wide field which are greatly appreciated.

One of our members, Mrs. G. Meikle, has served for six years on the Southern South Canterbury Co-ordinating Committee and has held the office of President of this committee for the past two years.

*The Presidents have been:* Mrs. J. Boyce, 1950-51; Mrs. R. Curtis, 1951-52; Mrs. C. Lane, 1952-54; Mrs. G. Meikle, 1954-56.

*The Secretaries have been:* Mesdames H. O'Neill, E. Thorn, Luskie and N. Giles.

*The Treasurers:* Mesdames E. Taylor, C. Lane, Luskie, Miss M. Askin and Mrs. L. Keen.

# Progress of Our W. D. F. F. 1925—1957

Born of loneliness and great privation,  
In love and loyalty our great cause grew,  
Within the hearts of early country women,  
To help uplift them in the trials they knew.

They made 'Flock House' boys their first great venture,  
And mothered them until their training ceased,  
Housekeepers too, provided for the needy,  
From *their* good deeds our blessings have increased.

Then came the 'Bush Nurse' kind and efficient,  
Surmounting barriers we'll never know,  
But down the years, their gallant work is history,  
Among the great no greater women go.

And now our 'Rest Homes' from years of striving,  
Hostels that teach our girls the country life,  
Could they forsee, this little band of women,  
How well their 'child' would fare through years of strife.

Like a beacon light, fires of their endeavour,  
Still shining through our land are like a plea,  
To keep their torch aloft, nor will we falter,  
From North to South, across from sea to sea.

ELLEN SADLER — Geraldine

# Thanks

BEFORE CLOSING THIS BOOKLET on the work of the W.D.F.F. in South Canterbury, we would like to record a word of thanks to those members of the Farmers' Union who encouraged us, helped us and worked along with us in those early years of our existence.

At that time we had little experience in regard to holding meetings and conducting public business. However, when our menfolk stood shoulder to shoulder with us, things were much easier and in them we felt we had true friends and helpers.

Take note of those women who have become your leaders and you will find that their husbands have been partners in the truest sense of the word.

The late Mr. P. R. Talbot was Acting Provincial President in those early years and we have to thank him for sound advice and direction.

When organising branches, my husband was always willing to take me to those districts where an opening presented itself. I could not drive the car and over all those years we had no telephone.

Mr. A. B. Struthers, too, when manager of the Otago Farmers' Insurance, was always a friend of the Women's Division and is still willing to help when opportunity arises.

In conclusion, we wish to thank all members of the Division for their loyal support over the years. May we see the younger members take up the work where the older ones lay it down and move on in strength to better and higher goals.

JANET EVANS  
for the Committee



